

Two soldiers killed in Hizbullah attacks

DAVID RUDGE

HEAVY fighting continued in the security zone yesterday following a series of Hizbullah attacks on IDF positions early Friday morning, in which two IDF soldiers were killed and seven wounded.

Hizbullah said the attacks were in retaliation for the car-bomb blast in its Beirut stronghold last Wednesday, in which a senior member of the organization and three other persons were killed.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin met with senior IDF officers in the North on Friday to assess the situation, but gave no indication that a major offensive against Hizbullah is in the offing.

The two soldiers killed in the early-morning fighting were Sgt. Natanel Rosenthal, 20, from Herzliya and Sgt. Guy Suda'i, 19, from Tel Aviv.

Rosenthal is to be buried this afternoon at 1:30 at the Kiryat Shaul Cemetery in Tel Aviv. Suda'i's funeral is to be held there at 3 p.m.

The seven wounded in Hizbullah's bombardment were treated in the field before being evacuated by helicopters to Haifa's Rambam Hospital. Two, who suffered moderate wounds, were reported in satisfactory condition and the rest in good condition, suffering from light shrapnel wounds.

Six IDF soldiers have been killed and 18 wounded in the wave of attacks by Hizbullah and rejectionist Palestinian groups within the past month. During the same period, nine South Lebanese Army soldiers have been killed and several others wounded in roadside bomb and long-range shooting attacks.

The casualty figures are among the highest ever in the security zone in such a short period.

"We are suffering blows, and



Wounded troops are evacuated by helicopter from southern Lebanon on Friday.

(Avish Shapira/Israel Sun)

we are hurting greatly," Deputy Defense Ministry Mordchai Gur told Army Radio. "We don't deny this, we're not hiding it."

Hizbullah has vowed to continue the escalation until "there is a procession of coffins from south Lebanon into Israel."

Rabin, however, rejected calls to expand the security zone in order to push the terrorists further back. Such a move would require deploying more IDF troops in the area, which in turn could ultimately result in more casualties, he said on his visit to the North.

"In my opinion, the policies

[on Lebanon] are, in principle, correct," Rabin said. "The main aim is to prevent disruptions to the activities and lives of residents in the North and to residents of the zone, and minimize harm to them."

"Any attempt to reach operations that would expand the zone would demand more forces and would allow [Hizbullah] more room to operate in the area, and the number of casualties would increase without changing a thing with regard to the northern settlements," he said.

Rabin recalled there had been attempts in the past to put an end

to the terrorist threat emanating from Lebanon.

"We destroyed Palestinian terrorism, but in its place has grown a terror that is more difficult and fierce, which is Lebanese and not alien to Lebanon, headed mainly by Hizbullah, as well as rejectionist Palestinian groups which are cooperating with Hizbullah."

"It's a complex reality which we have to cope with and which may require us from time to time to change our methods of operation. Maybe we have to find better protective means for our strongholds; but it's not an easy matter," he said.

Rabin did not blame the Syrians for the recent escalation of violence, but said they could curb Hizbullah and other terrorist groups operating from areas under their control.

"This is all happening under a Syrian political umbrella, where Syria is the dominant force in Lebanon and completely aware of Hizbullah activity," Ambassador to the US Itamar Rabinovich told Israel Radio.

"Perhaps Syria also thinks that, as long as the activity remains within certain boundaries, it serves Syria's policy," Rabinovich said, apparently referring to



Sgt. Natanel Rosenthal

the "understandings" reached to end Operation Accountability in July 1993.

Hizbullah said the massive wave of attacks over the weekend was in response to the Beirut car bombing, even though Israel denied any responsibility.

"We hold the initiative and if Israel attempts any more massacres then more Israeli blood will flow," said Hizbullah official Nabil Kouk.

Early Friday morning, Hizbullah attacked three positions in the Ali Tahr hill range, not far from Beaufort Castle, with a range of weaponry, including mortars, Katyusha rockets, anti-tank missiles, and machine gun and automatic rifle fire.

There were reports from Lebanon that, in one of the attacks, Hizbullah gunmen tried to approach one of the outposts on foot, apparently in an attempt to overrun it or one of its defensive ramparts. The attempt was thwarted by heavy return fire.

Nevertheless, the long-range fire on one of the positions proved to be accurate, killing two soldiers and wounding several.

IDF and SLA gunners blasted

suspected terrorist targets in the area and north of the zone, while helicopter gunships went into action. In one of the helicopter attacks, a jeep was hit, killing two people.

It transpired, however, that the jeep belonged to the Lebanese gendarmerie and the two people killed were local policemen. IDF sources said Hizbullah sustained casualties in the retaliatory fire, although the organization maintained that all its fighters had returned safely.

Several Katyusha rockets were fired at Marjayoun during the course of Friday's fighting, although there were no reports of any casualties. Fighting erupted again later in the evening, and firing continued intermittently throughout the night and into the morning.

In one of the incidents, in the eastern sector of the security zone, IDF troops spotted suspicious movement in a restricted area and opened fire with tank rounds. A Lebanese civilian was killed and three others wounded in the incident, which occurred near the Druse village of Hatzbiyeh.

Hizbullah continued its attacks yesterday morning, blasting three IDF positions in the western sector with mortar, RPG, and machine-gun fire.

Reports from Lebanon said the attackers fired nearly 60 mortar and RPG rounds at the outposts, manned primarily by SLA troops, as well as thousands of machine-gun rounds.

Some of the positions came under fire later in the day, while other squads of Hizbullah gunmen fired at outposts in the Jezzein region. Last night there were reports of more mortar attacks against IDF positions in the Ali Tahr region. There were no reports of any casualties.

The sound of gunfire reverberated across parts of the northern border until late last night, but it was confined to the security zone and northwards.

Yi'ud dowry to be decided today

SARAH HONIG

IT was not clear last night what, if any, ministerial post would be offered to Yi'ud MK Gonen Segev this morning, as part of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's attempt to expand his coalition by including two Yi'ud MKs.

A meeting of Labor ministers, convened Friday in an attempt to come up with a solution, failed to find one. Rabin must solve the problem by this morning if he is to present Segev's appointment to the cabinet at today's weekly session.

A source close to Rabin suggested he may have made up his mind what to do, but is keeping his decision a secret to avoid pressures from ministers who might be asked to make concessions to Segev. Rabin was due to meet last night with Segev, Israel Radio reported.

Rabin apparently also has no deputy minister's post available for Yi'ud MK Alex Goldfarb.

The third Yi'ud MK, Esther Salomowitz, refuses to enter the coalition with the other two, charging they are cheating the voters who elected them all on the hawkish Tsomet platform. Meanwhile, a source close to Police and Energy Minister Moshe Shahal hotly denied that Shahal has any intention of relinquishing the Police portfolio. Shahal has been under considerable pressure to yield the Energy portfolio to Segev, but has apparently been overheard saying he would rather part with the Police portfolio.

At the meeting, some suggested Shahal might cede the Police portfolio to Yossi Sarid, who would give up the Environment Ministry, which would go to Segev.

Sarid, however, said no such offer had been put to him. A

source close to Rabin said that appointing a figure as far left as Sarid to be in charge of the police force might prove a problem. Labor insiders also noted that the Police portfolio gives Shahal membership in the "inner" (defense) cabinet, something he is unlikely to want to give up.

At the Friday meeting, Shahal himself decried the "onslaught" on him because of his two portfolios. He noted there are other double-title ministries, such as Labor and Social Affairs, Economics and Planning, and Construction and Housing. Each of these ministries, he contended, could be split into two.

Last week it was suggested that the "infrastructure" portion of his Energy and Infrastructure portfolio be removed, and a separate infrastructure ministry created for Segev.

Under this plan, Shahal would

Hijackers reportedly kill 7 in Algiers Airport

PARIS (Reuters) — Four gunmen took over a French airliner with 283 people aboard at Algiers Airport yesterday and an unconfirmed report said they killed up to seven people on the plane.

An agency report broadcast on French radio quoted a released woman passenger as saying she had to step over dead bodies when she left the aircraft. The French Foreign Ministry could not confirm the killings.

Algeria's interior minister said gunmen holding a French airliner in Algiers yesterday killed two people and wanted the plane to take off for an undisclosed destination, French radio said.

Radio France-Info quoted Interior Minister Abderrahmane Meziane Cherif as saying one of the two dead was an Algerian policeman on the Air France Airbus 300.

Paris airport sources said the

gunmen mingled with tarmac crews at Algiers airport before pulling out weapons, blocking the takeoff of Air France flight AF 8969 to Paris scheduled to leave at 11:15 a.m. local time, and boarding the Airbus 300.

The gunmen later released 55 of their hostages in batches, including 29 women, seven children, and six men. All flights to and from the Algerian capital were canceled, as police cleared the airport terminal of civilians and surrounded the airliner.

The official Algerian news agency APS said Cherif was at the airport with the head of national security to deal with the situation.

Algerian Television said authorities were negotiating with the hijackers, whose demands were "unclear." Their identities were not disclosed.

The released passenger was quoted as saying they were fanatic young Islamists who terrorized

passengers, prayed, and handed scarves to women passengers to cover their heads.

The report said witnesses saw two wounded passengers being dumped into the open cargo hold and gassing for help as the hijackers fired to keep police at bay.

Civil strife in Algeria between Islamists and security forces has killed 10,000 to 20,000 people since authorities canceled a general election which the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) had been poised to win nearly three years ago.

APS said security forces shot dead 40 fundamentalist gunmen in four days this past week.

Most of the 271 passengers who had boarded the airliner were Algerian. Some reports said about 10 French nationals, including two diplomats, were also on the plane, in addition to the 12 French crew members.

French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur, holidaying in the Alps, told French television he shared the anguish of the hostages and their relatives on Christmas night.

French Defense Minister Francois Leotard, interviewed on television from Sarajevo, said France was prepared to help, if asked, to free the hostages.

At Paris's Orly Airport, the flight was listed as "delayed." Airport authorities assembled tearful relatives of Algerian passengers in a special hall, but later advised them to go home and wait for news from the airline by telephone.

The last Algerian hijacking occurred last month, when three Algerians forced an Algerian airliner to fly to Majorca before surrendering to Spanish police. They had been armed with a knife and a coffee grinder which they said was a bomb.

MKs call for emergency debate on road accidents

DAN IZENBERG and Itim

MK Dalia Itzik demanded over the weekend that the cabinet and the Knesset hold emergency debates on the large number of traffic accidents and fatalities.

Itzik and Labor faction colleagues Shlomo Buhbut, Eli Goldschmidt, Eli Dayan, and Salah Tarif urged Knesset Speaker Shevah Weiss to convene the plenum today or tomorrow, before the regular session.

"The Knesset must not be indifferent to the mass killing taking place each week on the roads," Itzik said. Were so many people to be killed in terrorist attacks, she added, "the entire country would be all stirred up."

Itzik, who was herself seriously injured in a car accident in 1988, added it is disgraceful the cabinet has not devoted a single session to the situation on the roads.

"Even if a cabinet meeting were to have no practical effect, it would still broadcast a message to the public," she said. Since making her

appeal, her telephone has not stopped ringing. She said the root cause of traffic accidents may lie in the "violent and macho" Israeli character. However, some practical measures could be taken immediately, she said.

"Where is the traffic police?" she asked. "Why aren't there special courts to try offenders immediately?"

Meanwhile, two people were killed and a woman was injured in mishaps over the weekend.

Menahem Darmer, 44, of Nitzanit in Gush Katif, was killed early yesterday morning when his car hit a high mound of earth at an intersection near Sderot. Police say it is possible Darmer had fallen asleep at the wheel.

An 84-year-old man was run over and killed by his grandson in a moshav in the South early Friday morning. The 16-year-old grandson,

who does not have a license, was driving his father's van.

In Tel Aviv yesterday, a drunk driver hit Aviva Arbel, 70, as she crossed the street at the corner of Bograshov and Hovevei Zion streets. He drove off as if nothing had happened, but eyewitnesses were able to provide police with his license number, and he was arrested near the city's port. Arbel suffered light-to-moderate injuries.

On Thursday night, north of Gush Katif, a Khan Yunis man ran his car into a mother and three children crossing the road, killing a six-year-old girl.

All told, 20 people were killed and 45 seriously injured in road accidents last week. Police suspended the licenses of some 200 drivers for serious traffic violations, and handed out 4,670 tickets on intercity roads, 890 of them for speeding.

Amir Rozenblit contributed to this report.

Bethlehem celebrates especially festive Christmas

HAIM SHAPIRO

AS IDF soldiers kept watch, thousands of local Arab Christians and pilgrims from abroad celebrated Christmas Eve in Bethlehem last night under Palestinian flags and pictures of Yasser Arafat.

At midnight, the traditional Christmas mass was held at St. Catherine's Church, the Roman Catholic Bethlehem parish church which adjoins the ancient Basilica of the Nativity, where a silver star in the grotto marks Jesus's birthplace.

The mass was to be shown to those unable to gain access to the church on a giant video screen in Manger Square.

Before the mass, 12 choirs held

a concert for holiday-makers in the square. The singers, whose coming was organized by the Israel Tourism Ministry, included three local groups as well as singers from Ghana, Nigeria, South Korea, Brazil, Spain, the US, and France.

Impressive displays of fireworks, organized by the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land, awed spectators before and during the choral performances. Ac-

cording to church sources, a large group of Christian pilgrims from Jordan also attended the celebration, for the first time in many years.

However, the crowd in Manger Square included far more local people than foreign pilgrims, giving the day the atmosphere of a Palestinian holiday. Bethlehem Town Hall, which also houses the Palestinian Authority's Tourism Office, headed by Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij, was topped by

(Continued on Page 2)

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Barak discusses military needs with Syrian CGS

ALON PINKAS

CHIEF of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Ehud Barak and his Syrian counterpart, Gen. Hikmat Shihabi, on Friday discussed the main principles of a possible security arrangement between the two countries, including mutual demilitarization of territories, a senior diplomatic source said yesterday.

Two other Israeli generals, Maj.-Gen. Uri Saguy, head Intelligence Branch, and Maj.-Gen. Danny Yatom, the military secretary to the Prime Minister and Defense Minister, participated in the talks, apparently held in Washington over the weekend.

Saguy and Yatom raised the issue of Syria's reluctance to contain Hizbullah and curb its activities,

but their Syrian counterparts denied any involvement in south Lebanese affairs.

Ambassador to the US Itamar Rabinovich and Syrian Ambassador Walid Mualem also attended parts of the meeting. Rabinovich told Israel Radio yesterday the talks were held in a "good and purposeful" atmosphere, but the two sides "do not have an open and friendly relationship."

According to Defense Ministry sources, Barak, who yesterday returned to Israel, conveyed Israel's military requirements to Shihabi.

The source confirmed that the two discussed demilitarization of areas in the Golan Heights and

lying east of the Golan in Syrian territory, and force reductions in areas adjacent to those marked for demilitarization. The Syrians have in the past demanded "symmetry" in demilitarizing territories, and said that in exchange for demilitarization of areas east of the Golan, they ask for similar areas in the Galilee to be demilitarized.

Other issues that were discussed were early warning stations. Israel insists that the Mt. Hermon station be retained, as well as two other stations in the Golan. In exchange for another station that would be built to monitor a possible agreement, Israel has reportedly agreed to let the Syrians build a station of their own in the Galilee.

7 wounded in Lebanon recovering

THE seven soldiers who were wounded in an exchange of fire in Lebanon on Friday were said to be improving at Haifa's Rambam Hospital, with one expected to be released today.

Roni Ankori, who was moderately wounded, is in the hospital's intensive care unit. Sgt. Sabba Rabotnikov, 21, of Arad, suffered moderate wounds to the leg and blood vessels, and is in the neurological ward.

St.-Sgt. Tamir Cohen, 21, of Kiryat Ata, Sgt. Gilad Sendrowitz, 20, of Be'er Ya'acov, and Sgt. Erez Rahamim, 20, of Petah Tikva, Cpl. Yoav Oren, 19, of Ra'anana, and Ya'acov Shoham, 21, of Haifa, were all operated on to have shrapnel removed and were recovering in the orthopedic ward. Their wounds were described as light.

Family members, who had begun to arrive at the hospital Friday morning, spent Shabbat at their sons' bedsides.

Haim Cohen, father of Tamir, said that the family had been worried ever since their son had been transferred to Lebanon.

"Every time you hear that something has happened in Lebanon, you ask, 'What happened?' I imagine that every parent whose son is serving in southern Lebanon is worried," he said. (Iim)

IDF may strengthen Lebanon outposts

ALON PINKAS

THE IDF may strengthen the concrete fortifications around its outposts in southern Lebanon, following several successful Hizbullah missile and mortar attacks against the positions, according to a senior army officer.

The source denied the IDF would review the entire concept of stationary outposts. As long as the concept of a security zone remains Israel's policy, "There is no substitute for a chain of outposts serving as observation posts

and bases of operations," he said.

The officer said the IDF is now reviewing its operational activity in Lebanon.

"Hizbullah's new and so far relatively successful tactic of firing Sagger anti-tank missiles and accurate mortar shells at outposts can be considerably offset by strengthening the outposts' protective walls and adding more fortified concrete to the outer layers," said the officer.

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The Ambassador and staff of the South African Embassy in Tel Aviv express their deep sorrow and extend sincere condolences to the family of

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Teddy, Miki, Uri, Gadi, and families



Border policemen guard the Christmas Eve parade route in Bethlehem yesterday.

Mixed feelings in North over security situation

DAVID RUDGE

THE sound of outgoing artillery fire could be clearly heard along the northern border yesterday, but no sirens blared and no orders were issued to residents to take shelter.

In fact, the Upper Galilee was packed over the weekend with holidaymakers taking advantage of the fine weather to visit northern beauty spots, especially the snow-capped Mt. Hermon.

All the hotels and guest houses in Metulla and its environs were packed. Nobody reported any cancellations and the Hermon ski site was packed to capacity.

Visitors to the region were aware of what was transpiring north of the border, but the call of the sun, snow, and fun proved irresistible.

"The whole of the region is packed with visitors and we don't have any vacant rooms," said Aiyana Belsky, whose family owns and runs the Arzaim Hotel in Metulla.

"At the same time we know what's happening to the north and we are thinking about our boys there every minute. We don't want to hear the sound of helicopters going overhead anymore, because we know it bodes trouble for a family somewhere in the country," she said.

Her comments were echoed by residents of nearby Kiryat Shmona, who said they were prepared to give "whatever support is necessary" to ensure the initiative remains with the IDF and not Hizbullah.

"The area is quiet at the moment and the atmosphere is calm, but people on the street are concerned about what's happening to our boys," said Yoram Even-Tsar, spokesman for the Kiryat Shmona Municipality.

Mayor Prosper Azran was equally forthright, saying it is inconceivable that soldiers in the zone should be turned into ducks in a shooting gallery.

Efrat construction continues despite Arab village's protest

HERB KEINON

LAND-clearing work is scheduled to continue this morning on a new neighborhood of Efrat, despite demonstrations late last week by Palestinians from the nearby village of El Khader, who claim the land in question is theirs.

Several hundred villagers went to the site north of Efrat after prayers on Friday and tried to keep bulldozers from clearing the land. IDF troops were called in for the second time in two days, and two people were arrested.

"Work on the neighborhood will continue," said Efrat local council head Yimon Ahiman, who expects that after a few more demonstrations the opposition to the new neighborhood will dissipate.

Ahiman said that four years ago the local council ran into similar opposition from El Khader residents when they were trying to do surveying work on the hill. In the meantime, he said, the

courts have ruled that the land belongs to Efrat.

Some 500 housing units are planned for the hill, a neighborhood to be called Givat Tamar. This is one of three empty hills in Efrat that, according to the settlement's master plan, are to be made into new neighborhoods.

Ahiman sent a letter to Efrat residents late last week in which he said that work on the new neighborhood is the proper "Zionist response" to proposals that the IDF withdrawal from populated areas in the territories begin in Bethlehem and Jenin. The road to Efrat and Gush Etzion goes through Bethlehem, and area residents are fearful about what will happen on the road if the IDF withdraws.

Ahiman, along with Ma'aleh Adumim local council head Benny Kashriel and Gush Etzion local council head Shilo Gal, met with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin last week.

CHRISTMAS

(Continued from Page 1) a Palestinian flag, and the front of the building had a giant picture of Arafat.

Additional Palestinian flags and pictures of Arafat were strung from streamers over the square. Last year, Israeli soldiers and Palestinian activists had tussled over the presence of Palestinian flags on the buildings and its surroundings.

Arafat himself was not present, but the PLO was represented by PA Planning Minister Nabil Shaath. Officials estimated that about 10,000 people were gathered in the square, about double the number of visitors last year and far more than came to the festivities during the years of the intifada.

Earlier in the day, with the holiday atmosphere augmented by warm sunshine, Latin Patriarch Michel Sabbah entered the square in a ceremonial procession. The Israeli presence was limited not because of politics, but because of Shabbat. Out of respect for the Sabbath, some Israeli officials and the usual mounted police guard did not appear.

Sabbah was greeted by Lt.-Col. Udi Zarchiya, the civil administration's governor of Bethlehem, as well as Bethlehem Deputy Mayor Hanna Nasser, who was standing in for Freij, who was ill.

Accompanying the patriarch were some 5,000 boys and girls scouts, far more than in previous years, from the Bethlehem area, Ramallah, and eastern Jerusalem, as well as Haifa, Jaffa, Nazareth, and Ramle. The scouts included bagpipers and drum and bugle corps, and although most were Christian, there were also three Moslem troops in the procession.

However, last night was not actually Christmas Eve for the majority of the country's Christians, who belong to the eastern-Orthodox communities. They will mark Christmas Eve on January 6, while the Armenian Church celebrates Christmas Eve on January 18.

Y'UD

(Continued from Page 1) give up several research institutes, including the Geological Institute; the Interior Ministry would have to contribute the National Sewage Works; the Agriculture Ministry would donate the Water Commission; and the Housing Ministry would hand over the Public Works Department and the Israel Lands Administration.

Both Agriculture Minister Ya'acov Tsar and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer said at the Friday meeting they would resign if Rabin removed important and heavily-budgeted departments from their ministries. Shas, for which the Interior Ministry is being held in reserve, has vetoed giving up the sewage authority.

Finance Minister Avraham Shohat told the Labor ministers he is firmly opposed to setting up an infrastructure ministry, "which, even if it does absolutely nothing, would cost the taxpayer many millions, just in setting up and maintaining its

administration." Segal reiterated over the weekend that he "would not enter the coalition for a meaningless, artificial ministry without real substance or authority."

Another idea raised at the meeting was that Rabin create a ministry for public administration and put Segal at its helm. It was not clear what such a ministry would do, except that it would somehow act as a mediator between the public and the government bureaucracy.

Some ministers also proposed the establishment of an information ministry, that would give Segal the task of explaining the government's policy abroad. This was vehemently opposed by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who fears such a ministry would encroach on his turf.

Shas further complicated Rabin's problems by refusing to consider Goldfarb for the job of deputy interior minister. Goldfarb himself asked to be deputy finance minister, a notion Shohat quickly quashed.

Gazan journalists hold strike

PALESTINIAN journalists in Gaza held a warning strike yesterday to back a three-point demand for freedom of the press.

Their chief demand is that the Palestinian Authority penalize Israeli journalists until Israel gives Gazan journalists the right to travel freely outside Gaza. They also want a non-ministerial government press office to replace the current Information Ministry. They refuse to sign a commitment to observe a planned law on publishing and printing, which they consider a censorship law.

As a warning shot, the Arab Journalists Association boycotted the PA weekly cabinet meeting yesterday. Jon Immanuel

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YITSCHAK (Tom) WINTNER ז"ל
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No special wish list for Hillary this Christmas

HUNDREDS of millions of people who live in Christian-based cultures celebrate Christmas today. For many the holiday festivities will last until next year - or at least New Year's Day on January 1, 1995.

The following are some Christmas stories from around the world:

President Clinton and Hillary went their separate ways for last-minute shopping yesterday but the first lady said she had no special "wish list" for Santa Claus. "I really don't want anything. I know you hate people who say that," Mrs. Clinton told CNN's Larry King. "But I feel so blessed and so lucky that I can't think of anything that I want except a lot of love and my family."

It seemed clear she would get more than that.

Clinton directed his motorcade through Northwest Washington for a 95-minute shopping spree at an upscale shopping mall in the city's Georgetown section.

His purchases included four video cassettes, colorful sweaters and at least two unidentified. One was a little something from a posh jewelry store.

Mrs. Clinton was more guarded about her gift for her husband.

"Oh, that's a secret," she did describe the gift as "moderate" and said it will be at or near the center of the room. "So it will be a moderate, centrist sort of gift," she said, laughing.

In Britain an appropriate Dickensian fog settled over the land. Thousands of airline passengers endured delays and cancellations as the fog and icy weather disrupted flights at Heathrow airport, one of the world's busiest.

It's a rare person who wishes you a "merry Christmas" in London. The locals say "happy Christmas" - that is, when

Jerusalem Post Staff and news agencies

they're not hoarding food at the supermarket or reeling home after office parties, sporting paper party hats and even antlers.

Christmas goes on and on in Britain, as a supposedly prim and proper country goes into eccentric overdrive.

The great day is preceded by a month of partying, and extended by an extra day's holiday for Boxing Day - named for the now-defunct custom of leaving Christmas boxes for mailmen and trash collectors.

Most Britons are at home on the day - making tea.

After watching or listening to Queen Elizabeth II address the nation and Commonwealth at 3 p.m. on Christmas Day, the nation makes a dash for the kettle, resulting in a 300 megawatt power surge.

The Irish government ordered the release of nine IRA prisoners, including two convicted murderers, in a goodwill move applauded by the group's political arm, Sinn Féin. It also ordered 30 prisoners freed for Christmas parole, including a man convicted of killing Lord Mountbatten in 1979 and another who shot his way out of a British prison. New Justice Minister Nora Owen said the releases aimed at consolidating the four-month-old peace in Northern Ireland.

Sinn Féin accused Britain of a Scrooge-style niggardly attitude in refusing to follow Ireland's gesture. London has repeatedly ruled out any amnesty to reward the IRA or other groups for the enduring cease-fire which has given Belfast and British cities their first relaxed Christmas for decades without fear of IRA or Unionist attacks.

President Nelson Mandela praised South Africans for defeating apartheid and rallied them for future battles against poverty and unemployment in his Christmas message yesterday.

"For the first time South Africans mark this day under conditions of equality," he said.

"In the short history of our democracy we have demonstrated a remarkable capacity to stand together and act as a united people," Mandela said.

"Let us build on this beautiful foundation."

France was sending tons of Christmas gifts to Rwandan refugee children - about 20 tons in aid and gifts were being shipped to children in Goma, the Zairian border town where hundreds of thousands of Rwandans remain in camps.

The shipment included 10 tons of blankets and new clothes as well as several thousand water containers, plus 10 tons of Christmas packages collected by various French humanitarian groups.

Each package contained a ball, a picture book, a T-shirt and writing materials.

Vietnam's communist Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet met the country's new cardinal, Paul Joseph Pham Dinh Tung, in a goodwill gesture toward the country's Roman Catholics to "highlight the Catholic people's contribution to the national cause."

Christmas is not an official holiday in Vietnam, where the ruling communists are atheist and cultural traditions are Buddhist. But the holiday has gained a pop appeal in large cities in recent years. Thousands of curious youth jam the churches to watch the midnight Masses, then pass a rowdy night of drinking and setting off firecrackers.

Chechen casualties mount

SLEPTOVSKOYE (AP) - Russian ground forces bore down on Chechnya's capital and air attacks continued yesterday amid growing criticism in Russia and abroad over mounting civilian deaths.

Photographers who left Grozny early yesterday said the city was struck by bombs in the pre-dawn hours for a fifth straight day. Several buildings were destroyed but the presidential palace appeared untouched. The extent of casualties was unknown.

Russian artillery shells were targeting the town of Argun east of Grozny, where residents were trying to recover their belongings from under the debris of their homes.

Two days of heavy daytime bombing had driven thousands more residents and most remaining journalists out of the capital of the independence-minded republic of southern Russia.

President Boris Yeltsin was following events closely yesterday and was expected to address the nation tomorrow night or Tuesday, his spokesman Vyacheslav Kostikov said. Yeltsin called a meeting of his Security Council for tomorrow.

Russian newspapers noted prominently that yesterday was the 15th anniversary of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, a bloody operation to which the Chechnya offensive has drawn increasing comparisons. Chechen officials say hundreds of people have been killed since Russian troops entered the republic Dec. 11.

Russian television continued extensive coverage of the bloodshed, including showing footage of a distraught Russian woman in tears pleading for a halt to the bombing.

Television networks throughout the world also were showing the ugly pictures of the Russian army shelling civilians, prompting statements from several countries.

The United States expressed its growing concern for the fate of civilians and pointedly reminded



A Chechen man and his son move out belongings from the remains of their house yesterday as they get ready to leave Argun, 15 km. outside of Grozny. (AP)

Yeltsin of that concern. It called attention to a complaint by Sergei Kovalev, Russia's human rights commissioner, who earlier this week condemned the air strikes and appealed for international pressure to stop them.

Britain, Canada, France and Turkey urged Moscow on Friday to find a peaceful solution to the fighting, a day after the European Parliament and Human Rights Watch-Helsinki aired criticism of the Russian offensive.

Until now, most foreign countries have considered Russia's military action in Chechnya an internal matter.

Yeltsin's failure to make a single public appearance since minor nose surgery the day before the offensive began has spurred

criticism across Russia of the operation to restore Russian authority in Chechnya.

A group of current and former soldiers that once ardently supported him, Military for Democracy, called on Friday for a halt to his "unjust war." It urged Russian pilots to follow the example of other officers who have either refused to attack Chechnya or resigned in protest.

The Duma, or lower house of parliament, overwhelmingly adopted a resolution Friday urging

Yeltsin to impose an immediate moratorium on the fighting and resume peace talks. The Duma then adjourned until mid-January.

Russian forces were seen moving toward Grozny from the west and south on Friday, but Chechen resistance remained stubborn. Rebel forces launched guerrilla attacks on Russian units to the northwest and also reportedly repelled a Russian tank attack near the town of Argun to the east.

Contacts resume to free US pilot

SEOUL (AP) - Contacts with North Korea resumed yesterday day aimed at obtaining freedom for a captive American pilot, and a US congressman said he saw "good signs" in the discussions.

"We've been in contact with the DPRK (North Korea) through the day and we continue to work toward a resolution," said Jim Coles, a spokesman for the US and UN military in South Korea.

Rep. Bill Richardson said American military officials are telling North Korea in talks at the Korean truce village of Panmunjom that the helicopter flown by Chief Warrant Officer Bobby Hall and David Hilemon strayed into North Korea due to a map-reading error.

Hilemon was killed when the OH-58C helicopter either crashed or was shot down Dec. 17. Hall was taken captive. Richardson helped negotiate

the repatriation of Hilemon's body.

The congressman said on US television the US side is giving information to North Korea that will allow the North Koreans "to save face, say they have all the information relating to the accident."

Richardson said he was hopeful Hall can be freed over Christmas. US sources said US and UN officials in South Korea would send an official letter of regret assuming responsibility for the incident.

The South Korean newspaper *Dong-a Ilbo* reported in its editions for today that the letter already had been sent, but Coles said he could not confirm that. Richardson said the United States is not apologizing but simply restating the facts.

Yesterday was filled with conflicting reports on whether the Christmas goal could be reached.

Italy's president gets support for election plans

ROME (Reuters) - Italian President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro yesterday won support from the Northern League and the opposition for plans to steer Italy towards fresh elections, but not on Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's terms.

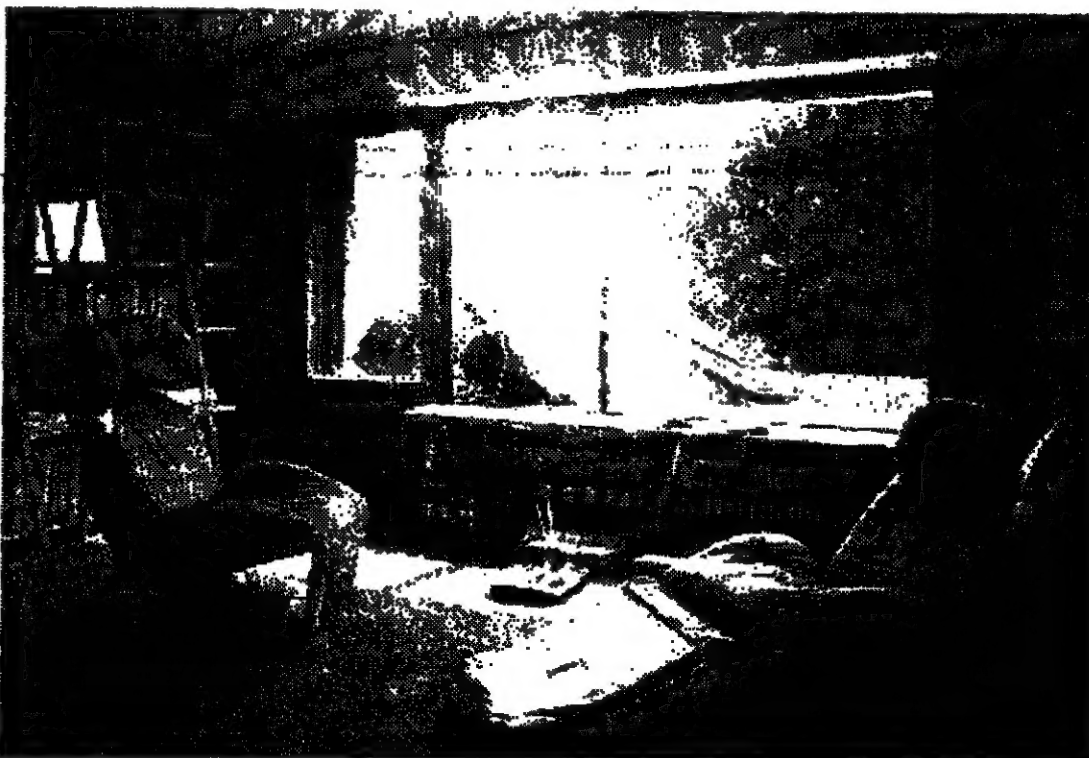
Scalfaro, refusing to bend to Berlusconi's demands for snap elections, wants to proceed with caution and make sure a new electoral system is in place before Italians vote again.

He believes the elections Berlusconi is demanding would be "a catastrophe" for the country, according to Interior Minister Roberto Maroni, a member of the federalist Northern League.

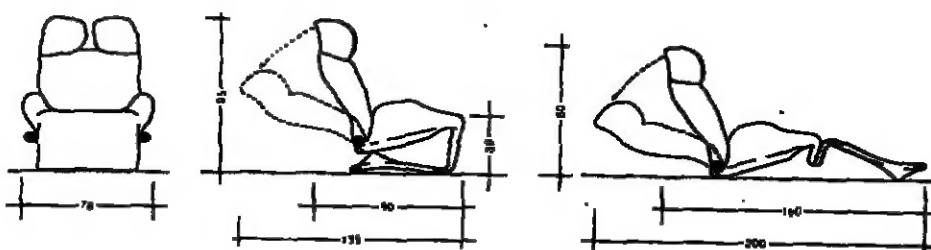
"The president's thinking is that elections should take place only after parliament has written the rules," said Maroni on Friday after a meeting with the president.

Scalfaro, the supreme arbiter in Italian political crises, must decide whether to dissolve parliament and call immediate elections or seek a successor to Berlusconi to head Italy's 54th government since World War II.

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Cease-fire honored except in Bihac

SARAJEVO (Reuters) - A cease-fire on which the UN hoped to build peace in Bosnia began yesterday but Croatian Serbs and rebel Moslems who did not sign it continued to fight in the north-west of the country.

Moslem and Serb media reports said the rest of Bosnia was quiet, apart from sporadic firing, in the hours after the cease-fire took effect at noon.

Colonel Gary Coward of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) told reporters: "The situation throughout Bosnia, including Sarajevo, is good with one exception which is Veleka Kladsa (in the northwestern Bihac enclave)."

He said Croatian Serbs and Moslem rebels "continued with warring activities south of Kladsa. There were a few shells and significant small arms and heavy machine gun fire."

Sarajevo was peaceful despite three shots which rang out on the city's notorious "sniper alley" seven minutes after the deadline but caused no casualties.

Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic signed a seven-day cease-fire with the UN on Friday and agreed to negotiate a four-month "cessation of hostilities" by January 1.

If the cease-fire succeeds in halting almost 33 months of war, talks will resume on a Big Power peace plan to divide the country between Serbs and a federation of Moslems and Croats.

A trail of broken cease-fires in the past prompted caution among the Big Power contact group - the United States, Russian, Britain, France and Germany - promoting the plan.

The group said in a statement that talks would start only when the UN verified the ceasefire was working and the Serbs accepted the peace plan as a starting point for negotiations.

The UN always knew the Bihac pocket was a weak link in the ceasefire based on mediation by former US President Jimmy Carter who was invited to Bosnia by Karadzic this week in an effort to break months of deadlock in the peace process.

The Moslem enclave has been the scene of heavy fighting since October. Although BSA com-



Hundreds gather at the Heroes and Martyrs Cemetery in Sarajevo's old town to pray for the latest victims of the conflict before their burial yesterday. (AP)

mander General Ratko Mladic signed the cease-fire, the Croatian Serbs and Abdic's forces were not even invited to follow suit.

Bosnian Serb radio, quoting rebel Moslem Velikaton radio, said the rebels were pressing south to "liberate the whole of western Bosnia" from the government army's 5th Corps.

The fighting hampered the

movement of UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) aid.

But Bihac is essentially a side-show compared with the broader war and diplomatic struggle between Bosnian Serbs and the Sarajevo government.

Karadzic ordered his forces to stop fighting on Friday and UN spokesman Thant Myint-U said

there was "a dramatic drop in military activity throughout Bosnia yesterday."

Among the last victims were three children killed in the northern Moslem town of Gradacac by shelling on Friday in which four other people were wounded.

Thant said: "We are becoming satisfied but the ceasefire is something that can be broken any

day. We want a much more differentiated cessation of hostilities which should be signed within the next week. After that, we have to move very quickly towards trying to get a political settlement."

The cease-fire agreement was boiled down to its essentials to remove issues over which the Serbs and Moslems have been wrangling for months.

These will be tackled as negotiators aim for a cessation of hostilities.

They include a Moslem withdrawal from the demilitarized zone on Mount Igman west of Sarajevo, the demilitarization of Moslem enclaves on Serb territory, an exchange of prisoners of war and information about those missing.

Christmas: A Japanese holiday?

DORIAN BENKOIL
TOKYO

CHRISTMAS! Lights in the trees, shoppers thronging the streets, music in the air, packed churches, hotels booked solid for couples to spend a night of romance.

Fine, but in Japan? "Christmas in Japan is only used as a way to celebrate something out of the ordinary. It has absolutely no relation to religion," says Eitoh Matsuzaki, who runs a Christian bookstore.

Japan should be more unlikely than Israel to celebrate Christmas - it has even less connection to Christianity than the Holy Land. The nation of Buddhism, Zen and Shinto - a homegrown animism - is less than one percent Christian. Most Japanese know Christmas marks the birth of Jesus, but many don't make the connection, says Rev. Isamu Ukai of the Ginza Church.

He recounted how, in the 1950s when he first came to his church, one passerby spotted a notice about its commemorations.

"Oh," she exclaimed, "even churches have Christmas?"

Nevertheless, Japan has seized on many of the commercial aspects of the season - and put its own spin on some foreign Christmas customs.

Dec. 25 isn't an official holiday here, but the emperor's birthday is celebrated two days earlier, and New Year is the major holiday of the year.

Families mark Christmas by giving children small gifts, and many fathers bring home a Christmas cake, a white-frosted, airy concoction meant to resemble a Yule log.

Brilliant Christmas ornaments bedeck the main boulevards of the swank Ginza shopping and nightclub district. A diamond-studded \$3 million tree made from silver sparkles at the Takashima department store.

Last year, despite a lingering recession, Japanese spent \$5.85 billion on Christmas presents, according to *Nikkei Gifts* magazine. And this year promises to be the same or better, says the editor of the now-defunct monthly.

But perhaps the biggest money-makers are metropolitan luxury hotels, the beneficiaries of the custom of the Christmas date - a full night out that many couples plan months in advance. Hotels say they expect to do even better than last year because Christmas Eve falls on a Saturday night.

The Tokyo Bay Hilton, with 740 rooms that go for \$420 each, is full from Dec. 22 through the 25th. A spokeswoman says couples in their 20s booked most of the rooms.

"You can use Christmas as an excuse to invite a girl even if you don't yet have a relationship with her," says Kazuhide Hayashi, 24.

The trendy weekly magazine *Popeye* leads its young male readers step-by-step through a Christmas date, from invitation through dinner to bed, complete with photos of a half-dressed couple embracing.

For the more spiritually inclined, the Christmas issue of the magazine *Brutus* explores the question of whether angels exist - and also reports on where to buy angel likenesses.

Religious services draw crowds, but many Japanese are there mainly to "feel the atmosphere," says Rev. Ukai. He estimates that less than 15 percent of the 500 people who pack his small chapel for two Christmas services are Christians.

Music at church services is a big draw, too. Ukai's church, for example, stages a popular annual production of Handel's *Messiah*. (AP)

Police seize videotapes from NY bomber

NEW YORK (AP) - Authorities investigating the firebombing in a subway car full of passengers want to review videotapes and computer disks seized from the New Jersey home of a suspect.

Investigators have already seized handwritten notes, including one with "Terror Mad Bomber" scrawled across the top, sketches of several bombs and an outline of a plan to terrorize the New York City subway system in an extortion scheme, according to police who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Edward Leary, 49, remained in critical condition yesterday, one of 48 people injured Wednesday when the firebomb exploded in a subway car in Lower Manhattan.

Leary, who suffered third-degree burns over 40 percent of his body, was found by police at a Brooklyn station, 3 km away.

He has been charged with 45 counts of attempted murder, but his attorney says his client is innocent.

Investigators believe the unemployed computer technician also is responsible for another



File photo of Edward Leary, suspected of Wednesday's NY bombing. (AP)

subway firebombing that injured two teens last week in the Harlem section of New York.

"(Leary) didn't do it... Here's a man who's in critical condition

and he's already been tried and convicted by the Police Department and city officials," said Stephen Murphy, Leary's attorney.

Officials allege that Leary hoped to use his crude bombs to create an atmosphere of fear in the subway, then contact media and transit authorities with demands for money.

A new set of warrants were being sought so that detectives could watch videotapes and computer disks seized during a search of Leary's Scotch Plains, New Jersey, house, said a police spokesman.

Leary's wife told the *Daily News* the charges can't be true. Otherwise, she's been "living with a stranger for the past 13 years."

Marguerite Shaller said that despite reports of estrangement, she had lived in Scotch Plains with Leary and their 10-year-old son up to the day of the bombing.

Murphy told the *Daily News* that Leary's father was an accountant who handled the finances for The Manhattan Project, the top secret atomic bomb project.

Main rival of India's PM quits

NEW DELHI (Reuters) - India's ruling Congress Party faced a split yesterday after the main rival of Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao resigned from the cabinet accusing the government of fueling corruption and religious strife.

Human Resource Development Minister Arjun Singh told a news conference that he was resigning to press demands for a judicial inquiry into the country's biggest financial scandal.

"It is with a heavy heart that I am penning this letter of resignation from your cabinet," Singh told Rao in the letter he distributed to reporters.

Rao's supporters said Singh was seeking to destabilize the Congress.

"The Congress is roughly divided between those who want Rao to go and those who want him to sack Arjun Singh," a senior minister, who declined to be named, said. He was speaking to Reuters before Singh announced his resignation.

A Congress spokesman declined to comment on Singh's resignation.

Singh's move followed his offer to resign from the cabinet on Wednesday over Rao's alleged inaction

against three ministers named in scandal inquiries.

Rao acted swiftly to deny Singh any mileage and sacked Food Minister Kalpana Raj, Health Minister B. Shankaranand and junior Rural Development Minister Rameshwar Thakur on Thursday.

Rao has been named by an official inquiry investigating a sugar import scandal in which the government lost about \$796 million. Officials, including Raj, were accused of delaying the imports until international sugar prices soared.

Shankaranand and Thakur were named in a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) inquiry into a 1992 bank and securities scandal in which bankers and brokers colluded to siphon \$1.3 billion, mainly from government securities, to play the then-booming Bombay Stock Exchange.

Singh said that was not enough and demanded a Supreme Court judge should lead a fresh probe into the Bombay scandal.

"The face of the end-users of the ill-gotten gains from the scam is still shrouded in mystery," he said. Rao was accused by an accused broker of accepting \$320,000 from him. He has denied the charge.

Bubis: WWII defeat liberated Germans

BONN (Reuters) - Germans should mark the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II as a day of liberation from the Nazis rather than a day of surrender or

capitulation, German Jewish leader Ignatz Bubis says.

"On our part there will be no negative commemoration day," Bubis, leader of Germany's Council of Jews, told today's *Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung*.

He suggested May 8, anniversary of the end of the war in Europe, be declared "day of liberation from National Socialism," noting that the Nazis' defeat freed Germans from oppression and suffering under an authoritarian regime.

The defeat of Nazi Germany led to the Cold War division of the country, which was cemented in 1961 when East Germany's communist regime built the Berlin Wall.

"We celebrate the Wall's fall and regaining unity, but it is all too easy to overlook how there came to be division and all too easy to overlook the fact that unity did not have to be lost at all," he said.

Bubis praised Germany's efforts to fight right-wing extremism, but added that it remained necessary to treat radical right groups as criminal organizations.

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When ritual becomes compulsive

JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

SCRUPULOUS observance of the 613 commandments is the focus of the life of religious Jews. But exaggerated care for ritual—such as taking hours to pray or wash one's hands before meals—is a likely sign of obsessive-compulsive behavior, which can make their lives and those of their families miserable.

Drs. David Greenberg and Eliezer Witztum, psychiatrists at the Jerusalem Mental Health Center (in the Sanhedria quarter), which is affiliated with the Herzog-Ezra Nashim psychiatric hospital, have researched this phenomenon.

They conducted a five-year study of obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) at their clinic, which, because of its location in the northern part of the city, has a disproportionately large number of haredi patients.

Their unusual research was published in the latest issue of the *Israel Journal of Psychiatry*, which was devoted to the subject of psychiatry and religion.

"About 1.6 percent of the general population suffers from OCD. But because our patient load is not representative of the country's general population, we can't say whether OCD is more or less common among haredim than secular Israelis," says Greenberg in an interview.

It's preferable that a religiously observant psychiatrist conduct such research (Greenberg is; Witztum is secular), as behavior that might seem to be abnormal to the uninitiated is perfectly natural to haredim. Among certain groups, such as followers of the Brisk tradition of "Lithuanian" haredim, pedantic observance of rituals and long prayers is a norm, and thus cannot be diagnosed as compulsive.

But the haredi Jew crosses the line into OCD when his or her exacting observance of ritual interferes with ordinary routines and causes distress.

"Every *nikve* attendant knows of a few women who spend hours preparing for their ritual immersion," notes Greenberg. "Then there are the people at a religious wedding who continue washing their hands before meals when everybody else is into his second course."

In a sample of 34 psychiatric outpatients with OCD, studied at the clinic, Greenberg and Witztum found "religious" symptoms

in 13 of the 19 haredi patients and in one of the 15 nonobservant patients.

Obsessions and compulsions were considered to be "religious" if the patient gave halachic reasons for them, such as "I close the trash can and check its outer surface during the meal, as it's forbidden to say prayers in the presence of trash."

The other 20 with the disorder displayed such symptoms as cleaning obsessively, or checking endlessly whether they had locked a door.

Of the 13 haredim with "religious" OCD, seven were obsessive about prayer, two about dietary laws, two about cleanliness; the compulsiveness showed itself in cleaning, repeating, checking and slowness.

"They are aware of what they are doing, and so are their families, even though the religious OCD patient tries to be very secretive about it," says Greenberg. "Many rabbis are aware of it too. One very prominent Jerusalem rabbi told me he knows of many such cases."

There is a theory, says Greenberg, that religious people with OCD feel aggression or hostility towards God. "But I haven't found this in practice. Ultra-Orthodox Jews with OCD do not rebel against their religion and become secular."

ONE CASE study presented is that of "Baruch," a 19-year-old who lives with his parents. He is very friendly, but constantly apologizes for speaking too loudly or closing the door too noisily. When he was eight years old, he became worried that he wasn't breathing deeply enough. Baruch thinks his devotion at prayers is inadequate and sometimes thinks blasphemous thoughts. As a result, he repeats the *Shema Yisrael* and other prayers for hours. He is also preoccupied with placing his *tefillin* exactly on the right position on his head and forearm, checking them over and over during prayer.

Another man, 45-year-old "John," married with five children, frequently calls his psychiatrist to describe a minor infringement of dietary laws and ask what to do. He is obsessed with laws about not mixing meat and milk. Mealtimes are a nightmare in his home, because he anxiously



The exacting observance of ritual characteristic of haredim differs from compulsive behavior in haredim; the latter interferes with ordinary routines and causes distress. (Rahumim Israeli)

watches his children lest they touch the ketchup bottle with greasy hands. He wipes their hands frequently during every meal and his own about 30 times. He refuses to wash the dishes, so as not to splash water from the milk sink to the meat sink.

Thirty-one-year-old "Sara" is friendly and relaxed, but shows excessive concern about dietary laws. She washes pots, kitchen surfaces, faucets and even the telephone endlessly, and never allows her children to cook. She also is so worried about whether her menstrual periods are over

that she delays going to the *mikve* on time, leaving only a few days when intercourse with her husband is allowed until her next period.

"Isaac," 30, cleans himself with 20 sheets of toilet paper and water after going to the toilet and before starting to pray. During his prayers, he is constantly anxious about whether he has urinated or defecated, rendering his devotions "an abomination."

These and other ultra-Orthodox victims of OCD can get help, Greenberg concludes. Prozac, Fovoxil and other medications can eliminate or ease the objec-

tionable behavior if they are taken on a permanent basis.

"These work on serotonin, a neurotransmitter, in the brain," says the psychiatrist. "Some fear that drugs will strip them of their observance entirely, but they trust us when we tell them this is not so."

"They can also be helped with behavior therapy—in which they gradually reduce the number of times they perform the ritual," he adds. "But the treatment process is very time-consuming, because we often go with them to their rabbi who gives his consent for each stage."

Don't worry about child's gray hairs

Rx FOR READERS

JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

MY 11-year-old son has about half a dozen gray hairs among the hairs on his head. There is no history of premature graying in our family. Should I be worried? S.H., Jerusalem

Dr. Moshe Frydman, a geneticist at Sheba Hospital at Tel Hashomer, answers:

You have no reason to worry; what you describe is not the result of a disease and has no medical implications. Children having some white hair, either dispersed on their head or concentrated in one patch, is not an infrequent phenomenon. Some babies are even born that way.

When the white hairs are concentrated in one place, it is called piebaldism. In this case, the condition is usually caused by a dominant gene passed from a parent to half of his or her children on average. It is also possible that the child has his own mutated gene. A patch of white hair may also be the equivalent of a birthmark, but without the pigment.

No one knows the cause of dispersed white hair in children. It may be a sign that the child's hair will go gray prematurely in his 20s or 30s, but this will pose cosmetic problems, not medical ones.

Dispersed white hair can also occur on the body, not only on the head. But if you try to pull out your son's white hairs, they'll grow back. There is no drug that darkens hair; if your son feels uncomfortable, you can always dye the white hairs.

Aside from albinism, in which all the hair is white, the only medical condition that gives children white hair is a rare genetic condition called Waardenburg disease. Children with this condition are born with a white forelock and their eyes are unusually far apart. A fifth of these children will be deaf in one or both ears, and some have eyes that are two different colors.

Prof. David Branski, head of pediatrics at Jerusalem's Shaare Zedek Hospital, comments: "You are probably worrying unnecessarily. Even if the hairs are cold, your apartment is undoubtedly warm to a comfortable temperature. Walking barefoot can become a factor in a disease

only in case of really extreme temperatures. If your son were predisposed to a viral or occasionally bacterial infection, very cold feet could lower his body's resistance to fight it off.

If his feet turn white or blue, you must insist that he wear socks or slippers. Otherwise ignore it. Preschool children are often stubborn, and if you make a big deal about it, he may take his clothes off as well.

I am a 59-year-old secretary. I suffer from cold feet, especially at work, where the floor has no rug and the building is not well heated. I also have cold hands, but my feet make me more uncomfortable. I try to wear warm socks and thick-soled orthopedic shoes, but that doesn't help. I swim, walk or ride an exercise bike daily, but this has no effect on my problem either. I am a vegetarian. Could the problem be due to a vitamin deficiency, or do I have a circulation problem? F.R., Jerusalem

Dr. Avinoam Skolnick, a general surgeon and medical director of Laniado Hospital in Netanya, replies:

From your description, I believe you are completely normal. It is clear that your complaint is not due to a vitamin deficiency.

Blood vessels contract in a cold environment, and expand in a warm one. In addition, by the time blood leaves the heart and reaches the extremities, its temperature is a bit lower than blood in the center of the body, so the arms and legs feel colder, especially in a cold room. This is natural, but some suffer more than others from this phenomenon.

If you had a disease, you would undoubtedly suffer from more serious symptoms, such as blue fingers and toes and numbness or pain.

All you can do is try to raise the temperature in your workplace; a rug would help. Exercise will expand blood vessels only temporarily; it will not solve your problem.

Rx For Readers welcomes queries from readers about medical problems. Experts will answer those we find most interesting, and replies will be printed in the twice-monthly column on the Health Page.

Write Rx For Readers, c/o Judy Siegel-Itzkovich, The Jerusalem Post, P.O. Box 81, Jerusalem 91000, or fax 02-389527, giving your initials, age and place of residence. Phoned-in queries will not be accepted.

Tibetan herbs may alleviate disease that hinders walking

POST HEALTH REPORTER

THE natural-medicine research unit at Hadassah-University Hospital, Ein Kerem, wants you—if you suffer from intermittent claudication, a debilitating chronic condition that results from hardening of the leg arteries.

Researchers are looking for additional participants to join a year-old study on a Tibetan herb treatment that has shown considerable promise in relieving this condition.

Padma 28, a complex formula containing 20 different herbs, many of them found only at high altitudes and imported from Himalayan countries, has been marketed for over 20 years by a reputable Swiss company and boasts no significant side effects.

Dr. Sarah Sallon, a physician born and trained in Britain who heads the unit at the hospital in

Jerusalem, is enthusiastic about Padma 28's use in alleviating the affliction, which impairs blood flow in the legs and makes walking very painful.

Intermittent claudication, she says, affects thousands of mostly elderly Israelis. There is little conventional medication to help them, and most of them will eventually need surgery if no other treatment is found effective.

"The major pharmaceutical companies have unsuccessfully looked for an active molecule—a magic bullet—to reverse the very complicated changes involved in atherosclerosis (the clogging of arteries)," says Sallon.

Tibetan healers, whose system of medicine has been developed over thousands of years, usually

treat patients with complex formulas comprising anywhere from five to 50 plants. Padma 28 has been used for disorders caused by an overconsumption of (yak) meat, fat and alcohol in that country.

Prof. Isaac Ginsburg and Yakov Matzner, two Hadassah researchers, have already demonstrated that Padma 28 is a potent antioxidant—that it contains substances able to "mop up" excessive free radicals that can contribute to inflammation and atherosclerosis.

Research conducted abroad, says Sallon, indicates that combinations of antioxidants may be more effective in treating certain diseases than single antioxidants, such as vitamins in food or pill form.

More information can be obtained from Dr. Sarah Sallon at (02) 778323.

A surgical answer to incontinence

HEALTH SCAN

POST HEALTH REPORTER

SKILLED urological surgeons who sew a bit of intestine or stomach into an artificial bladder are saving many people from incontinence.

The idea was first suggested in 1889 for patients whose urological function was damaged by tuberculosis. The technique has in recent years been greatly improved, changing the lives of patients who lose their bladders to cancer, whose bladders are too small or whose neurological function has deteriorated from disease or accident.

Bladder reconstruction is discussed in the latest issue of *Harefuah*, the journal of the Israel Medical Association, by Drs. Arye Shalhav, Ya'acov Ben-Haim, Ofer Shenfeld, Ya'acov Golomb and Benad Goldwasser of Sheba Hospital. The authors followed up the condition of 18 patients who underwent such surgery in the Tel Hashomer hospital in the past few years.

The procedure involves snipping a piece of the patient's own small intestine or stomach, cutting it open on the sides, folding it in half and sewing the tissue into a bladder-like organ. Some of the patients, who lack a muscle to control urination, also received an artificial closure device. The surgery has even been done on children born with a very small bladder.

In an editorial in the same issue, Dr. Dov Podes of the Hadassah-University Hospital's urology department notes that the reconstruction allows some patients to fully control their new bladder. Others must insert a catheter every six hours or so to empty it—but this is preferable to suffering from incontinence. Up to five years after surgery, nearly all of the patients were very satisfied, though those who had to use a catheter needed careful supervision to prevent urinary infections.

TEST FOR ACCIDENT-PRONE ELDERLY DRIVERS

Three simple tests can help predict whether an elderly person can safely drive a car. Yale University Medical School researchers, writing in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*, found that elderly people who walk less than a block a day, who have foot abnormalities such as toe deformities, and who perform poorly when copying designs during mental tests, are much more likely to be involved in accidents.

Chief researcher Dr. Richard Marotelli found that while the total number of car

wrecks in the US involving drivers older than 72 is low, the rate of collisions per kilometer driven is very high.

The researchers studied 283 drivers aged 72 and older between 1990 and 1991, and found that nearly half who walked little, had foot problems and had trouble copying diagrams were later involved in serious traffic accidents.

By comparison, of those who registered none of the three factors, only six percent had crashes or violations, while 12 percent of those with one factor had trouble driving and 26 percent of those with two factors had trouble on the road.

BIKUR HOLIM UPGRADES TRAINING

Many hundreds of practical nurses have been trained at Jerusalem's Bikur Holim Hospital since it graduated its first nursing class 60 years ago. But due to the serious shortage of registered nurses in Jerusalem, the 170-year-old hospital decided to upgrade its nursing school, and it now offers a three- or four-year curriculum, instead of the two-year practical nurses' course. Those studying four years can earn an academic degree.

Some 30 young women began studying this fall in the new program, developed under the aegis of Bar-Ilan University.

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The Syrian challenge

By now, Israel should be accustomed to being blamed for everything that goes wrong in the region. As *Boston Globe* correspondent Ethan Bronner once wrote, there are members of the Iraqi opposition who say that Saddam Hussein is a Mossad agent, and Syrian diplomats who insist that the Islamic radicals in Syria are really Jews in disguise. It is therefore hardly surprising that a car bomb explosion in Beirut which killed, among others, Hizbullah official Fuad Mughniyah was blamed on "the Zionist enemy." An explosion in a Beirut church soon after the Tomb of the Patriarchs massacre in February was similarly attributed to Israel, which presumably wanted to divert attention from the Hebron incident.

It is far more likely that one of the many murderous rival factions in Beirut took advantage of the increasing tension between Israel and the Hizbullah to settle accounts. If anything, Israel has followed a policy of constraint to a fault, trying - as the government's coordinator of activities in Lebanon Uri Lubrani said yesterday - to keep the tension from escalating, even though "our patience is being tested." But the Hizbullah has already used the incident as a pretext for increasing the number and intensity of its attacks in the security zone, resulting in two Israeli fatalities on Friday.

Neither Lubrani nor Israel's ambassador to the US Itamar Rabinovich - who regularly meets with the Syrians in Washington - doubt Syria's involvement in Hizbullah's war against Israel and the South Lebanon Army. Using diplomatic language they said in interviews broadcast yesterday that Syria could prevent Hizbullah's activities. The proven Syrian ability to turn Hizbullah on and off and time its attacks to coincide with diplomatic activity in the area makes it clear that the organization is in effect a branch of the Syrian armed forces. Just the fact

that it uses Sagger missiles - which it receives from the Syrian military - with greater frequency than ever is enough to prove the close cooperation with Damascus.

The Israeli response has been governed by the guidelines Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin enunciated soon after he took office. Israel will fight terrorism as if there are no peace talks and continue to negotiate as if there is no terrorism. Just as Hamas terrorism has not affected Israeli attitudes to the Palestinian Authority, the Hizbullah war has not inhibited Israel's pursuit of negotiations with Damascus. But only the most unrealistic would disagree with Lubrani's assertion that the Hizbullah war "enhances Syria's power leverage, both in and out of the negotiating track."

Lubrani also made a veiled threat. Stating that "Operation Accountability did not come out of nowhere," he averred if Israeli patience is stretched to an intolerable point, a similar operation may be undertaken. But such operations seem relatively ineffective. For Hafez Assad, who has no compunction about fighting to the last Hizbullah gunman, such large-scale attacks in Lebanon do not constitute a deterrent.

It is time to try the obvious: a suspension of all direct and indirect negotiations with Syria until it reins in the Hizbullah. The cessation of hostilities is an internationally recognized and accepted precondition for negotiations. The British government has made talks with the IRA contingent on a total cease-fire. This is what Israel should have done before it agreed to recognize the PLO. Now it is not too late to condition the continuation of the talks with Syria on complete calm on the Lebanese border. In fact, it is a good test of Assad's intentions. Stopping the Hizbullah war is a far more persuasive signal of goodwill than billboards glorifying peace in Damascus.

The Yi'ud farce

If election reformers want proof of the system's infinite corruptibility, they need go no further than the current maneuvers to incorporate the Yi'ud faction into the government. The sight of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin desperately scurrying around to find a ministry for one nonentity and a deputy-minister position for another, should persuade even the most ardent devotee of the status quo that reform is definitely in order.

That Rabin wants to enlarge his coalition is both understandable and commendable. Clearly, the fateful decisions the government has to make must not depend on a tiny majority. The more MKs he can persuade to join in these decisions the better. But while no premier could have stayed in office had he offered two members of the opposition large sums of money for defecting into his camp, what Rabin has done - while strictly legal - is not ethically and morally different. To put it bluntly, he bribed MKs Gonen Segev and Alex Goldfarb with ministries instead of money. To do so, he had to effect the repeal of a law designed to prevent precisely this kind of bribery.

This in itself is reprehensible. The law, a wise preventive designed to protect the public from political chicanery, was upheld by the High Court only to be repealed by a government more concerned with instant gratification than with

good government. But it is the insanity of the system that is to blame more than the cynicism of party apparatchiks. It is a system which enables a party leader, in this case Tsomet chairman MK Rafael Eitan, to include in a parliamentary election list two functionaries who could not have been elected dog-catchers in their own right. Once voted into the Knesset, such "representatives of the people," who have never been elected by anyone directly and who are accountable to no one, can switch their allegiance to anyone they want.

Of course, a change of mind - or of political philosophy - is perfectly legitimate. No less a statesman than Winston Churchill changed parties twice. But it is one thing for a directly-elected politician who is accountable to his constituency to do so. It is quite another for a cipher on a list, elected purely on the merit of its leader and platform, to mock the electorate.

To make matters even more shameful, the one member of the faction, Esther Salmovitz, who has refused to betray the platform on which she was elected by joining the Labor government, is now left in political limbo. The law prevents her either from returning to Tsomet or joining another party without penalty. The system not only rewards hypocrisy and avarice; it punishes integrity.

It's time for a change.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

VIVA VERDI!

Sir, - I ref.: to Sam Orbaum's contribution to *Eye on the Media* of November 25. "Tabloid finds Scrabble players 'guilty' of snobbery." I would remind Orbaum that Giuseppe Verdi, who was no snob even though he went to the opera, shrugged off gossip, believing that sooner or later the truth would out and it was unnecessary aggravation to run after wagging tongues.

Personal grief caused by biased or malicious reporting is the theme of Janet Malcolm's latest book, *The Silent Woman*. Miss Malcolm was herself sued by Jeffrey Masson for presenting paraphrased remarks as quotations in *In the Freud Archives*. In my opinion, she did him a favor, but the US Supreme Court decided for the plaintiff, Masson vs. Malcolm et al. did, indeed, drag on for years and it cost a bundle even before damages were fixed, but it suggests that members of the Scrabble Club could sue Art Polman and Ha'ir.

If I were Orbaum et al., I would be less upset about the article (which I haven't seen) and more distressed by what I learned about acquaintances who read such papers and believe everything they see. From the passage cited by Mr. Orbaum, it seems that Mr. Polman is extremely crass and totally humorless.

The Hebrew press is essentially sensationalist. Every day, every page cries out scandal and disaster,

which means, first, that readers ostensibly outraged really don't care, because their senses are dulled. I suspect they read the papers in search of cheap thrills; and second, what excites them today is soon forgotten, because every issue is filled with similar garbage.

Ten years ago, I started to work at a large private institution and soon had a reporter from the in-house organ at my door to interview "the new male secretary." It was a fiasco, but I didn't call the editor to block it - common sense told me there was no material for a piece. I was right, and wrong. It appeared, and it was really stupid. Asked about it, I could only shrug - but I never read that paper again.

Several years later a reporter from a magazine came to interview someone else. While waiting for his subject to arrive, he tried to chat me up. I was wary of reporters. I had no authorization from public relations. I had no answers to his questions. I told him nothing, but he copied my name from the door and attached it to some shocking "scoop" of his own invention. When I arrived at work the day his exposé came out, I was warned to lie low: the high-crises were in an uproar. By 10 o'clock, the whole affair was forgotten.

Viva Verdi!

Givat Ze'ev.

POOR MEDIA COVERAGE

Sir, - Like many other citizens of Israel, I wanted to demonstrate my outrage at giving Yasser Arafat the Nobel Peace Prize by attending a rally to honor the only member of the Prize Committee, Mr. Kaare Kristiansen, who resigned from the committee after it voted to give Arafat the award. Although only about 300 people were expected at the Renaissance Hotel, over 1,500 people jammed into the hall.

To my surprise, the next day I heard nothing of this even on the radio or in the popular Hebrew paper I read regularly. To my knowledge, only *The Jerusalem Post* wrote an article about the rally.

The fact that the press did report the news conference with Kristiansen on Thursday, December 8, is no reason for the media not to cover what took place on Saturday night, the exact time when they were handing out the Nobel prize to Arafat in Oslo. On the contrary, the media almost always gets reactions from around the world to important events either from individuals or reports on demonstrations such as that which took place at the Renaissance.

Journalists should investigate government intervention in killing or promoting certain stories which are found not to the liking of those in power.

JOSHUA J. ADLER

Jerusalem.

D.S. REISS

OPINION



Unkind Xmas present

HAIM SHAPIRO

JEWs aren't in the habit of receiving Christmas presents. So it is perhaps understandable that the statement on the status of Jerusalem presented to the government by the heads of the Christian communities left Israeli officials with a distinct sense of disquiet.

The statement says that "Jerusalem is too precious to be dependent solely on municipal or national political authorities, whoever they may be."

Since both the municipal and the national authorities are Israeli, this sentence sounds like a direct challenge to Israeli sovereignty in Jerusalem. No wonder Israeli officials were concerned.

Although Israeli government officials have chosen not to comment on the statement, Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert described it as "a strange combination of prejudices and distorted perceptions."

Olmert was apparently referring to the statement's implicit comparison of the Jews to the Crusaders - a frequently heard anti-Israeli charge.

"Jerusalem... witnessed throughout its history the successive advent of numerous new peoples... Most often the newcomers were gradually integrated into the local population... But when the newcomers tried to claim exclusive possession of the city and the land, or refused to integrate themselves, then the others rejected them."

Aside from the ancient Jewish claim on the Holy City, such a view ignores the fact that the Jews have been the largest religious community in Jerusalem since the 1830s, and an absolute majority in the city since the 1860s.

However, it is not the historical or theological elements which are most disturbing, but rather the political call for a "special judicial and political statute for Jerusalem which reflects the universal importance of the city."

The statement goes on to voice

barely veiled criticism of Israel. "Experience shows that such local authorities, for political reasons or the claims of security, sometimes are required to violate the rights of free access to the Holy Places."

This isn't the first time church leaders in Jerusalem have charged that Israeli security precautions restrict freedom of access to the holy places, even when the Israeli authorities have made special arrangements for Christians from the territories to come to religious ceremonies in Jerusalem.

In an interview this week, Latin Patriarch Michel Sabbah was quoted as saying that "Jerusalem... is still closed to Christians, Moslems, to all inhabitants of the

A new report by the capital's Christian communities seems to challenge the status of Jerusalem

occupied territories." In what the church leaders say is an attempt to ensure such free access, they seem to reflect the views of the Vatican, with a call for international guarantees.

The statute on Jerusalem which the Christian leaders demand, "should also be guaranteed by the international community," the statement says.

IRONICALLY, it is Israel's agreement with the Vatican - culminating in the exchange of ambassadors between Israel and the Holy See earlier this year - which led to the formulation of the statement. In the light of the formal agreement between Israel and the Catholic Church, the other historic churches began to feel uneasy about their own position vis-a-vis the Jewish state.

The other factor that has

caused a feeling of uncertainty among the churches is the peace process with the Palestinians, especially as the issue of Jerusalem has been left as the last item in the negotiations.

The feeling of Christian insecurity may be seen in the regular visits by the heads of the churches to Yasser Arafat in Gaza, and by the fact that Christian leaders are unwilling to make public any infringement of their rights by Moslems. Indeed, one often has the feeling that Christians criticize Israel to appease the Palestinians.

Olmert said that there was no questioning the unique historic position of Jerusalem for all the monotheistic religions, and he promised that the status of the city would be preserved, as would freedom of access to Jerusalem's holy places.

"However, the way to maintain this situation is not, as the heads of the churches suggest, through the implementation of an international guarantee. Historical experience has shown that in every case of international intervention, the opposite of security is achieved. This situation is liable to repeat itself in Jerusalem as well," Olmert said.

Officially, although the statement was presented to Israeli and Jordanian officials, as well as to a representative of the Palestinian Authority, it was not made public. In practice, it has enjoyed wide circulation in Christian circles, including such bodies as the US Council of Bishops and the Middle East Council of Churches.

So far, Israeli officials, with the exception of Olmert, have accepted the nominally non-public nature of the statement and refrained from making any public response. However, in view of the fact that the declaration is bound to receive wider publicity, it behooves them not to leave this challenge unanswered.

The writer is a member of The Jerusalem Post editorial staff.

POSTSCRIPT

SIXTEEN-YEAR-OLD April Fleming was facing death within days, and she wasn't thinking of herself.

When the Make-A-Wish Foundation promised to grant the repeat runaway's dying desire, April didn't ask for food, travel, fancy clothes or exotic animals. She didn't even ask to meet a personal hero.

She asked for Christmas presents for homeless kids. "I've never had a child want to give to someone else," said Susan Houk, marketing director for the foundation that answers the wishes of dying children. "It was very touching."

Three years ago, April, of Seattle, found she had a pre-leukemic disease that has led to cirrhosis of the liver. Three months ago, doctors gave her a year to live. Three weeks ago, they said six months. Last week, they said she'd be lucky to see Christmas.

Two weeks ago, her nurse called Make-A-Wish and said, "If you want to do something for this girl, you've got to do it in the next 48 hours."

When April named her wish, foundation members immediately went out and bought toys and clothes for 12 children.

April cried in her hospital bed as she watched a video showing the children's delight.

"I've been there," she said. "I was homeless by choice, but I've been there."

A LESS-THAN-JOLLY Santa Claus at a mall in Jacksonville, Florida, told a six-year-old boy he wouldn't get any presents if he was a University of Florida football fan.

Santa also pointed his white-gloved finger at the boy's father and challenged him to a fight. Santa then walked off the job, leaving expectant children stunned.

Chip Crabtree said he and his wife took their sons, ages 2, 4 and 6, to the mall. When Santa saw the children's mother wearing a U of F Gators sweatshirt, he said: "Santa Claus doesn't like Gator fans... Santa Claus wishes that Florida State would beat the Gators in the Sugar Bowl."

When the children's mother told Santa he was being rude, the

red-faced chief elf retorted: "Lady, if you don't like it, you can get them [the children] off my lap."

The family asked for their money back and began to leave. Crabtree, who was videotaping the visit, told Santa he didn't like his remarks.

That's when Santa jumped from his chair and allegedly thumped Crabtree's chest with his finger and taunted: "You want to do something about it, right now, pal? Right here on stage?"

Crabtree said he didn't. When mall security jumped in, Santa told a nearby elf: "Just tell them [the children] to go home. I'm out of here."

Crabtree later told his children that this wasn't the real Santa.

THE ARKANSAS Supreme Court ruled that a homeowners' ostentatious Christmas display which has drawn thousands of gawkers annually is too much of a good thing.

The Jennings Osborne family annually puts up what may be the planet's largest privately owned arrangement of Christmas decorations - including some three million red light bulbs.

Osborne, a wealthy, eccentric biomedical research executive, has covered his mammoth suburban Little Rock estate in Christmas lights for years, augmenting the glowing bulbs with huge figures

Winged guardian

JOE PISANI

NOT since the days of Raphael and Fra Angelico have so many angels fluttered across people's collective consciousness - on network TV, in overpriced gift shops, through Neiman Marcus catalogs and on best-seller lists.

Everywhere you turn, at cocktail parties and in supermarket tabloids, someone has a story about a guardian angel. One woman got a Thanksgiving dinner catered for free by a mysterious stranger, while another had a flat tire changed on a wintry night by a suspected heavenly car mechanic who didn't leave footprints in the snow, or a bill.

In recent years, the religion sections of bookstores have been overwhelmed by accounts of angelic encounters. There are more than 150 titles on the market, with Billy Graham's often-reprinted 1975 work, *Angels*, at the top of the charts.

According to a recent Gallup

Three in four adult Americans believe in angels

poll, 72 percent of adult Americans believe in angels, and three-quarters of America certainly can't be wrong, except during national elections.

A surer proof of the existence of angels is that the entertainment industry takes them seriously. Just in time for the holidays, every TV channel has produced several specials about celestial beings who romp around in seductive evening wear, rivaling the fallen angels of the '70s hit series *Charlie's Angels*.

Over the past year, network TV has produced dramatized documentaries about the saving power of angels, featuring segments like "An Angel Drove Me to the Emergency Room," which are substantiated by expert testimony from law-enforcement officials and health-care professionals.

DURING THE Middle Ages, philosophers like Thomas Aquinas debated theological questions like how many angels can dance on the head of a pin. Today, the question in our consumer-oriented society is: How many cherubs can you plaster on a brioche?

Raphael's bemused, bewinged baby-faced creatures, who permanently reside in the Galleria del Uffizi in Florence, are popping up on stationery, wristwatches, mouse-pads and playing cards. Pretty soon, they'll be imprinted on boxer shorts.

But consumerism is only part of this fascination with our celestial guardians. In 445 CE, when Pope Leo the Great advised believers, "Make friends with the holy angels," he could never have envisioned the proliferation of angel support groups, meditation tapes, and newsletters for people who want to communicate telepathically with their spiritual alter egos.

Neither could he have foreseen the countless first-person accounts that would emerge, such as "My Fiance Was Johnnie Angel," "How an Angel Revitalized My Stock Portfolio," or "My Boss Was a Fallen Angel."

We've been so inundated with these wondrous stories about good angels that now a sub-genre is developing about "bad angels" and the evil they cause us mere mortals.

Don't get me wrong. I believe in angels - it's always safer to be a believer - even though I've never had a personal encounter with one. And if Billy Graham says there are 300 references in the Bible to angels, who am I to be skeptical?

If Judaism, Islam and Christianity all have enduring traditions about the existence of angels, who am I to relegate them to greeting cards?

We're told they flutter about the universe, rising and falling to heaven as messengers to God, and that they have biblical-sounding names which are entirely foreign to American culture, where kids are named LaToya, Rush and Kent.

Presumably, most guardian angels prefer to do their good deeds anonymously; however, after we pass into the afterlife, we'll probably be presented with a ledger of the countless occasions when they saved us - along with a bill for services rendered.

(Greenwich Time)

مكثان الكحل

NOTES

Date-Watchers:

Eight men recently filed claims against Jenny Craig Inc., a Massachusetts diet company, claiming that female co-workers sexually harassed them. One former employee, Joseph Egan, told The Wall Street Journal that his female coworkers commented on his impressive biceps, nice eyes and "tight buns," and one female supervisor told him she had dreamed about seeing him naked. Even more humiliating, as the A.P. story reports, male employees were made to wear the same uniforms as female employees: white coats and pale blue scarves. Another male employee, Tracy Tinkham, was told that the only way he could

get promoted was to have a sex-change operation or to wear a push-up bra. "If I was having a bad day, it was not uncommon for one of the women to say, 'You must be having your period,'" Tinkham said. A former supervisor, Donna Curio, said that female dominated company "did not want to hire men because men wanted more money, they wanted it faster, because they had families." Poor baby. According to sex-blind vision of gender discrimination, this is a textbook violation of Title VII. Which says more about Title VII than it does about Jenny Craig.

Orange Aid:

When American big cities ran into fiscal crises, beset by debt, high taxes and underfunded schools, not a few conservatives blithely threw up their hands in indifference. Oops. Now the capital of the anti-government right, Orange County, California, has found itself filing for bankruptcy, a victim of reckless borrowing and poor financial management. This poses a painful quandary for the federal government-bashers. Will they let their mecca end up like Bridgeport, Connecticut? Or can we safely redefine a liberal as a conservative who's gone bankrupt?

Politically Correct Conservatives:

The politics of identity is not, it turns out, restricted to the left. In a recent rant in The New York Post, Hilton Kramer directs his ire against New York Times editorial writer Brent Staples. Staples' crime was writing a Times column blaming the Democrats' election defeat and reigning conservatism on the nefarious influence of the late Leo Strauss, a conservative political philosopher at the University of Chicago. Much of Staples' column was indeed ludicrous: a mixture of crude generalizations about Strauss and silly hysterics about the fate of America. But it was not completely nutty. Staples accused Strauss of anti-democratic sympathies and of severe doubts about the Enlightenment project. Any serious reader of Strauss knows these charges are not far off the mark, although Strauss was also a fan of constitutional government, modeled on Aristotelian lines. But Kramer's attack on

Staples missed these nuances. The sub-head on his piece was "Resident black militant Brent Staples unleashes a tirade that singles out Jewish thinkers." In the article, Kramer said that "Staples has made a specialty of maligning intellectuals — particularly, it must be said, Jewish intellectuals." Later, just in case you missed the point, Kramer describes Strauss as "an obscure Jewish philosopher." Nowhere in Staples' piece is there any reference to Strauss's Jewishness; and Staples also attacks Thomas Sowell (black) and William A. Henry (white) in the same piece as acolytes of Straussian elitism. In the context of the argument, Strauss's ethnicity is completely irrelevant. Unless, of course, you prefer to reduce any intellectual disagreement to the more emotionally satisfying arena of racial warfare. Which is right where Hilton Kramer, among many others on the P.C. right, feels most at home.

Market Fluctuations:

Orders for Machine Tools
Increased 45.5% in October
— The New York Times, November 28

Machine-Tool
Orders Dropped
29% in October
— The Wall Street Journal, same day

Selloff Fails to Shake
Stock Fund Investors
— The New York Times, November 30

Investor Withdrawals
Jolt Many Stock Funds
— The Wall Street Journal, same day

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FEIFFER

DEAR SANTA,
A LOT
HAPPENED
THIS
YEAR.



MY DAD
MOVED OUT,
BUT SAID
HE WILL
ALWAYS
BE THERE
FOR ME.

MY MOM SAID DADS
IN MID-LIFE CRIES
BUT I MUST
LOVE HIM
ANYWAY.



MY DAD SAID THAT GUESS
IF HE AND MOM FIGHT
THEY WILL NEVER FIGHT
OVER ME.



MY MOM SAID I SHOULD
NOT DIVIDE MY LOYALTIES
BETWEEN MY PARENTS
BUT I SHOULD TELL HER
EVERYTHING
DAD DOES
WITH ME.



MY DAD ASKED IF I
WANTED TO GO TO
MEXICO FOR
CHRISTMAS
WITH HIM
AND THIS
SHINY
LADY,
JOSIE,
HE
KNOWS.



MY MOM SAID I DON'T
HAVE A FATHER ANY-
MORE, AND WERE
SPENDING CHRISTMAS
IN DISNEY
WORLD.



SO SANTA, I'M
ONLY ASKING FOR
ONE
THING
THIS
YEAR.



SEND ME A
KID BROTHER
FOR
THE
SOLAR
SYSTEM
HE
BUILT UP.



Michael Maren

Spoiled

A cetylene torches tint the night sky on a sandy back street in Mogadishu, less than 20 yards from the fortified United Nations compound. Technicians working for faction leader Mohammed Farah Aidid are mounting heavy caliber machine guns and rocket launchers to the rear ends of Land Cruisers and pickup trucks to use in the next phase of Somalia's civil war. The U.N. barracks, once a base in the hunt for Aidid, now serve to deter any force that might attempt to shut down Aidid's weapons workshop.

Tomorrow, a delegation from the U.N. Security Council will visit. The U.N., it is widely known, will announce its intention to end the Somalia operation by March 31, 1995. Neither Aidid nor his rival, Ali Mahdi Mohammed, seems concerned over the impending departure; both have shrugged off warnings from U.N. Special Representative Victor Gbeho that this is the last chance for negotiations before the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) mission pulls out. Neither seems any more willing to compromise than he was the past five times UNOSOM threatened to withdraw.

Over the past year it has become clear that the Somalis do not view UNOSOM as a credible mediator, but rather as a big, dumb cow to be milked. UNOSOM has supplied thousands of jobs in Mogadishu and other towns (every two weeks the U.N. buys up about 20 percent of all the Somali currency in existence). Now, with the departure imminent, the faction leaders are positioning themselves to grab whatever spoils the U.N. leaves behind.

Aidid's side seems to be winning. Last August his soldiers attacked a Zimbabwean contingent in the town of Beled Weyn. One Zimbabwean was killed. The rest were stripped to their underwear. Automatic weapons, mortars and armored personnel carriers valued at more than \$2 million were confiscated. (Since the Americans left, the U.N. has lacked the transport capability to reinforce any of its troops in the field.) Aidid apologized for killing the soldier, kept the goods and continued to meet cordially with Gbeho — who continued to express optimism that the U.N. could broker a peace agreement. Meanwhile, Aidid has been complaining about the U.N.'s failure to pay hotel bills that his delegation ran up during months of stalled negotiations in Nairobi and Addis Ababa.

Ever since the American forces left Mogadishu last March, Somalis on the streets predicted that the Egyptians and other Third World troops in Somalia were there only to do business. It appears they were right. Security has collapsed. A few dollars passed to sentries will buy anyone entrance inside the gates of the port and airport to do business. As of last week, fifty-seven brand-new four-wheel-drive vehicles had been sold to Somalis by the security forces for between \$3,000 and \$5,000 apiece. Some have turned up on the streets of Nairobi, their U.N. markings faintly visible beneath fresh paint, where they fetch \$50,000 to \$60,000. Recently four tankers filled with gasoline were simply driven out of the port, never to be

seen again. Cash and goods alike feed the arms build-up.

When the U.N. finally withdraws, the big prizes will be the port, airport and the U.N. compound itself. Previously, Aidid financed his war against Ali Mahdi by selling off what he had looted in Mogadishu — plumbing, roofing, wires, monuments, office equipment. The war ran down when they ran out of things to steal. Now, the U.N. has spent \$160 million renovating the former U.S. Embassy compound (which was completed at a cost of almost \$40 million by the U.S. government just before Mogadishu descended into chaos). Even

foreign troops. Another large chunk has gone to foreign contractors such as Texas-based Brown & Root or Australia's Morris Catering. Somali businessmen who have tried to deal with the U.N. have complained that procurement officers demand kickbacks. Then there is the \$3.9 million in cash that disappeared from the U.N. compound last April. None of the money has shown up, and it is generally considered to have been an inside job.

The price tag might have been worth it if the U.N. were brokering peace, but it's not. The two main factions are further apart than ever, agreeing on almost nothing except that the U.N. special representative is a joke. As negotiations have become more intricate, the U.N. personnel in the country have less experience. No one who was in Somalia last March remains, nor any trace of institutional memory. And although Somalia politics can't be mas-

tered by a few weeks, Gbeho seems to be missing even the simple points; further thwarting reconciliation. One of the largest and most powerful factions, the Somalia Salvation Democratic Front, held a congress in August and elected General Mohamed Abshir Musa as chairman. No one from the U.N. was present, but



after it became clear last summer that the U.N. operation would be ending, the bureaucracy continued to sink money into construction. A new airport terminal building was recently completed. The latest make-work project inside the eighty-acre compound has been to install speed bumps; apparently, driving the same two miles of road day after day had made people reckless. (You can walk across the compound in ten minutes.)

Aidid has insisted to the U.N. that it leave behind vehicles and other valuable equipment, arguing that any "aid" that comes into Somalia should belong to Somalis. Though the request has struck many at the U.N. as impertinent, from the Somali perspective the U.N. operation is inherently corrupt, and U.N. bureaucrats are in Somalia only to enrich themselves. They have seen little evidence to dissuade them.

In the past eight months Somalis have seen the U.N. bureaucracy double to nearly 800 civilian personnel, even as humanitarian activity halted. One U.N. worker in the humanitarian office said she was "disgusted" with how little was going on. Most U.N. employees, she complained, were just doing time there to help them climb the U.N. career ladder. "A Somali combat ribbon looks good on the résumé," she said.

A Somali employee in the same office was more bitter. Having worked under five different foreigners at the humanitarian unit, he said he finally had figured out that the expatriates were interested only in collecting their daily subsistence allowance of \$100 or more per day, beyond their salary and perks. Somali employees are lucky to get \$300 per month.

The bill for the operation is now \$4 million per day — one-third of it supplied by the United States. Most of that pays for

Gbeho somehow reported back to new York that Abshir's rival, Colonel Abdullahi Yusuf, was chosen. The Security Council then published a report acknowledging the chairmanship of Yusuf. The confusion turned out to be catastrophic, since Yusuf belongs to Aidid's camp and Abshir to Ali Mahdi's. Both factions now claim to include the Democratic Front, and neither man can attend a conference where the other is chairman. Now that Yusuf has been appointed by the U.N., he is unlikely to compromise. (Several people from Aidid's side produced copies of the Security Council report from their pockets to show me when I raised the issue.)

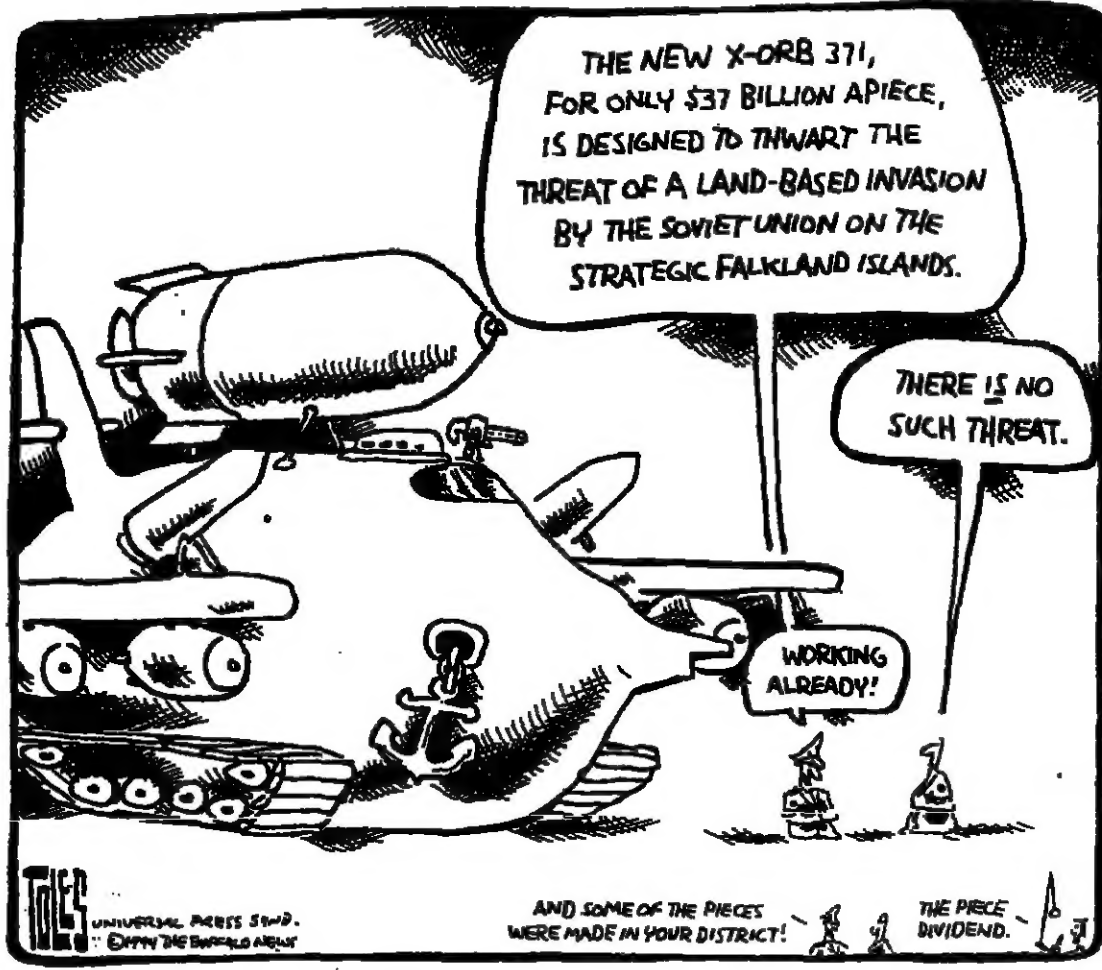
Gbeho, who is from Ghana, has another problem not of his making: Somalis in general show little respect for Africans. When speaking English, people around Aidid and Ali refer to Gbeho as "that Ghanaian." When speaking Somali they use the word *adon*, which means slave, a term in common use to describe Africans with darker skin and coarser hair. That Gbeho's assistant is also Ghanaian just proves to the conspiracy-minded Somalis that the U.N. is up to no good. The logic runs like this: first the Westerners came in and took their piece of the U.N. loot. Then the Egyptians, Malaysians and other Third World countries got their shot. Now lowly African countries are picking up their crumbs as the operation winds down. The Somali share so far has been small.

For two years foreign optimists have been proclaiming peace at hand in Somalia because the factions were tired of fighting. In truth, they had run out of resources. Now, \$4 billion later and with the U.N.'s help, they are rested, rearmed and ready to fight again.

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EDITORIAL CARTOONS



Alan Dershowitz Kiddie Porn Statutes Need To Come of Age

Several years ago, my local film developer gave me a neighbor's snapshots instead of my own. It was all a perfectly innocent mistake that did no one any harm, since my neighbor's pictures were of a birthday party. I quickly returned his photos and retrieved my own vacation pix. But consider what could have happened if the developer had instead given snapshots taken by a hypothetical neighbor on a nude beach in France. According to the literal words of child pornography statutes now on the books, I would be guilty of "receiving" child pornography and subject to imprisonment for 10 years.

In its zeal to posture and muscle-flex against the evils of kiddie porn, Congress and several state legislatures enacted

child pornography. But it rejected that interpretation of its language on the ground that such a reading "would produce results that were not merely odd, but positively absurd." As examples, it gave the following: a retail druggist who returns an uninspected roll of developed film to a customer who "knowingly distributes" a visual depiction and would be criminally liable if it were later discovered that the visual depiction contained images of children engaged in sexually explicit conduct. Or, a new resident of an apartment might receive mail for the prior resident and store the mail unopened. If the prior tenant had requested delivery of materials covered by [the statute], his residential successor could be prosecuted for "knowing receipt" of such materials.

"In our zeal to protect children from predatory exploitation, we must not endanger the privacy and expressive rights of innocent Americans."

some of the sloppiest and most open-ended pieces of legislation ever to pollute the statute books of this nation. Under the hastily drafted congressional law, "anyone who knowingly transports" or "knowingly receives" any visual depictions of a "minor" who is "engaging in sexually explicit behavior" is guilty of a serious felony. "Minor" is defined as any person under the age of 18. "Sexually explicit behavior" includes "lascivious exhibition of the genitals or pubic area." "Lascivious" is not defined by the statute.

So broad is the reach of the statute that an appellate court recently concluded that it covered a videotape of teen-age girls wearing "bikini bathing suits" and "leotards," so long as the camera focused on their genital area. The statute contains "no nudity" requirement for prosecution. It could thus apply to swimsuit editions of magazines, lingerie catalogues and mainstream motion pictures.

Nor does it explicitly require that the recipient of the material know that it contains pictures of minors. Thus, a person was recently prosecuted for distributing a video of a porn actress named Traci Lords, who looked like she was over 18 but turned out to be just short of majority. This went too far for a majority of the Supreme Court justices, who decided to perform radical surgery on the statute.

The words of the statute appear to punish anyone who "knowingly receives or distributes child pornography. The word "knowingly" seems to apply to the acts of receiving or distributing, rather than to the contents of the material received or distributed. The Supreme Court agreed that "the most grammatical reading of the statute" would require its application to someone who knowingly receives a package without knowing that it contained

Similarly, a Federal Express courier who delivers a box in which the shipper has declared the contents to be "film" "knowingly transports" such film.

A majority of the high court thus ruled that the statute must be interpreted to require that the recipient or distributor "know" the sexual nature of the material and that the person depicted is a minor.

The two dissenting judges — Scalia and Thomas — would permit prosecution without regard to knowledge of the age of the performer, so long as the recipient or distributor knew, or should have known that what he or she was receiving was "pornographic." Anyone who deals in pornography takes the risk of being prosecuted for kiddie porn if the subject is 17 1/2, rather than 18, according to the dissenters.

The federal statute, vague as it is, is not nearly as dangerous as several state laws which criminalize the "photographing [of] minors nude or semi-nude," without regard to "lasciviousness" or sexuality. Those laws, which have been upheld by lower appellate courts, would literally apply to bear-rug baby pictures or nude beach family photos. They place the trust in prosecutors to distinguish between "bad" child pornography and "good" family photos.

In our zeal to protect children from predatory exploitation, we must not endanger the privacy and expressive rights of innocent Americans. Child porn statutes should be narrowly redrafted to criminalize only such exploitive conduct without also covering conduct which is protected by the Bill of Rights. But who is going to have the courage to be sensible about this hot-button issue? Certainly not legislators, who run for cover whenever anyone accuses them of being soft on kiddie porn.

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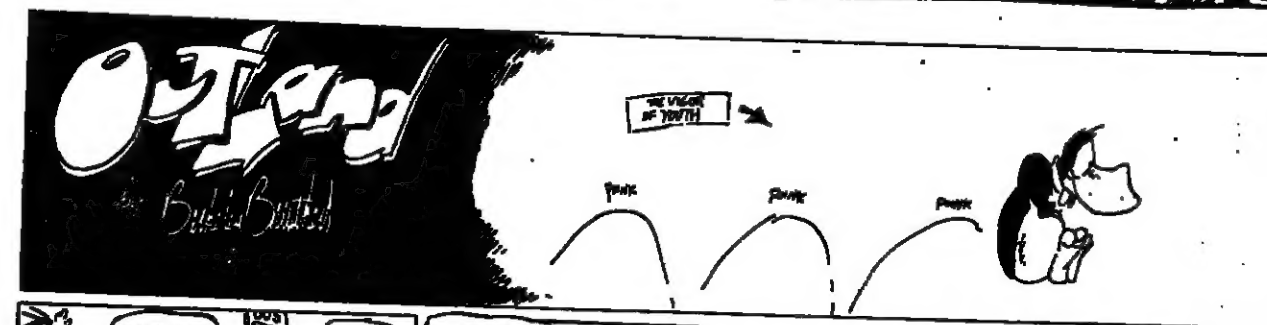
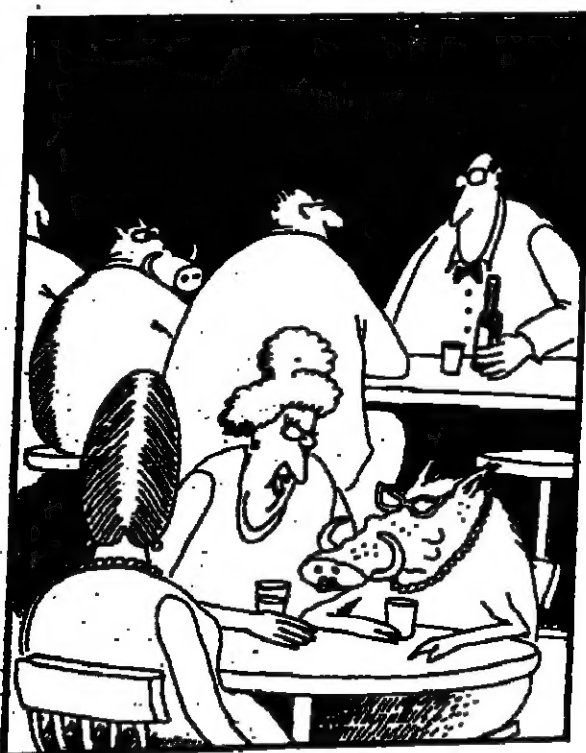
Doonesbury

BY GARRY TRUDEAU



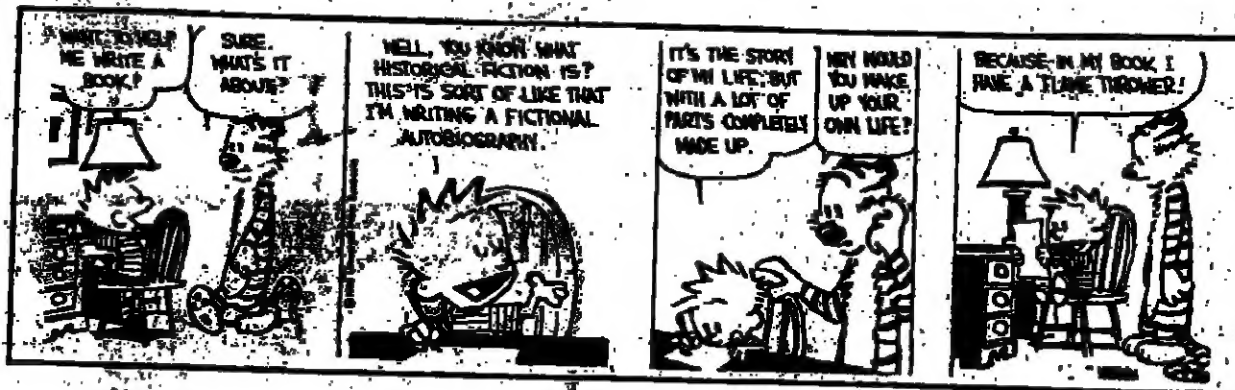
SHOE

by Jeff MacNelly

THE FAR SIDE
by GARY LARSON

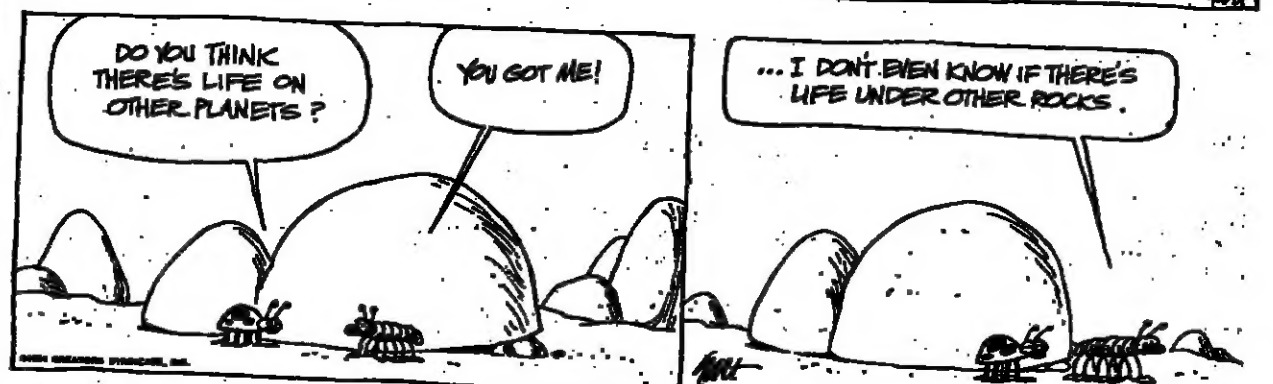
Calvin and Hobbes

by Bill Watterson



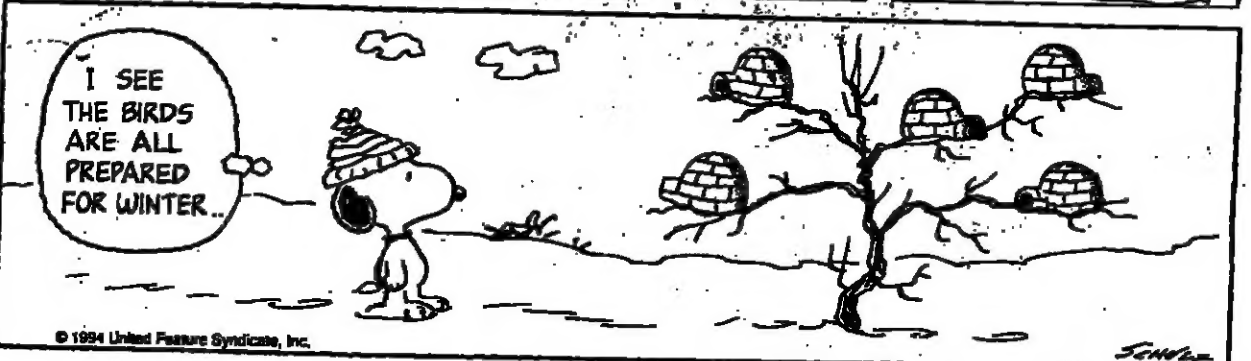
R.C.

by Johnny Hart



PEANUTS

by Charles Schulz



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QUOTE CRYPTOGRAM by Rebecca Kombluh

Q HPKQI'B ZEWBB UB KETR KPGW QTTEGQCW CRQI Q KQI'B TWGCQUICM
- GEVMQGV YULAUZ

Last Week's Quote Cryptogram: The meek may inherit the earth, but not its mineral rights - J. Paul Getty

Most traders on Wall Street, myself included, share a Panglossian view of the United States business cycle known as the soft landing. In this view, a powerful and omniscient Federal Reserve sifts through mounds of data, senses the economy expanding a mite too rapidly and gently applies the brakes to keep the business cycle going at a subdued, non-inflationary pace. A few rate increases here, a couple of discount rate hikes there, and Captain Alan Greenspan carefully pilots us back to earth to fly again another day. Just recently, however, the Fed decided to crash-land the U.S. economy — and the result may be the recession of 1995.

On November 15, the Fed, frustrated by the remarkably strong data on job growth and commodity prices, decided to increase the federal funds rate — the rate for overnight bank borrowing that is the most sensitive indicator of the direction of interest rates. Since February the Fed had raised the rate five times. But none of these hikes was as big as the whopping three-quarters of a percentage point it went for this time. The politicians and economists have not yet awakened to what this means: we are now on a collision course with recession.

The Clinton administration, under Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen, took an accommodating attitude toward the Fed's previous rate hikes, and it accorded this superhike the same treatment. Bentsen's imminent departure won't change that, either; incoming secretary Robert Rubin, now the White House economic policy coordinator, also gave his blessing to the Fed's move. You would think the politicians must believe the economy is indestructible — or at least not going to destruct until the winter of 1996. Of course, there's not much they can do about it anyway; once the Fed acts, any badmouthing by Treasury just provokes more selling by fearful bond traders, and therefore even higher interest rates, as Rubin knows from his days managing billions in Goldman Sachs.

Come the fall of 1995, the economic wreckage, sadly, will be plain. Those of us who, on the news of the hike, immediately started selling Maytag, Bethlehem Steel, General Motors — and hundreds of other economically sensitive companies — understand that the Fed has now sided with the bondholders, who want their principal protected, and against the creators of jobs and corporate profits.

It's no coincidence that after the market's subsequent ninety-two-point, one-day plunge, it was mostly cyclical companies (the firms that make and bend steel, copper and aluminum, and

that depend on sustained lower rates) dominating the list of stocks hitting their fifty-two-week lows. Worse, the Fed didn't signal — as it had with some of the rate boosts earlier this year — that this rate increase would do the trick for the time being. It left the door open for more hikes, ensuring that Greenspan & Co. won't relent until the economy has crashed and burned.

How can we be certain that the market is sending us the right signals? Despite some pundits' clichés about the stock market predicting many more recessions than have actually occurred, the declines in the big cyclical stocks have with consistent accuracy presaged every downturn or slowdown in the past twenty years. After the five other rate hikes of 1994, these same stocks had actually rallied, on the assumption that the Fed was still aiming for a soft landing. November's mini-crash in cyclical stocks told us that the Fed will succeed

in getting its slowdown, and probably something far worse.

Why did the Fed switch from pinpoint to crash landing after five gentle rate shifts? For that answer we have to go back to the fall of 1993. At that time, the fed funds rate had sat at an exceptionally low 3 percent for a full year. Consumers enjoyed the concomitant low short-term rates of adjustable rate mortgages, loans from auto companies and refinancings of existing mortgages — all of which were at the cheapest prices for money in years. These rock-bottom short rates triggered one of the greatest booms in the postwar period.

Despite plenty of data showing that the economy was gaining speed, the Fed chose to do nothing through all of 1993. Perhaps it was blinded by its own sleight of hand. By keeping short-term rates low, the Fed unwittingly encouraged banks, hedge funds and brokerage houses to borrow billions in short-term

dollars to buy longer-term bonds so they could lock in a nifty gain (provided that the economy stayed in low gear). Financial institutions such as the now-infamous Orange County treasury took out loans at short rates, say for two years, to buy ten-year bonds that may have yielded twice as much. They pocketed the difference.

As long as rates stayed low, this magical "carry" yielded bountiful returns. But it also drove rates at the long end, particularly the thirty-year Treasury, to as low as 5.85 percent — precisely when the economy was achieving lift-off. Maybe the Fed simply took too much comfort in the low yield of the long bond, which in retrospect was grossly overvalued, and not enough attention to its own statistics, which showed that it should be raising federal funds before the economy shifted into high gear. By the time the Fed realized what it had done, the juggernaut could

not be slowed by the usual quarter-point increments that this Fed chairman favors.

Strangely, it's not consumer price inflation that prompted the shift in Fed strategy. In fact, consumer-level prices remain subdued; if the Fed were reacting to the consumer price index, we wouldn't have had a single rate increase yet. Rather, the Fed is watching commodity prices and dollars paid per hours worked, two reliable indicators of future inflation.

As the strong economy caught most of American industry flat-footed, there has been tremendous pressure on business to build inventories of raw goods with which to make product. The ethylene, aluminum, box-board and pulp industries — the pulse of manufacturing America — had been cut back too severely after years of lagging demand to meet the surge of consumer spending. At the beginning of 1994 there simply was not enough capacity to meet the demand inspired by the low rates. The Fed adopted the strategy of small rate hikes, hoping to brake the economy just enough to give time for the Dow Chemicals and the Alcosas to bring on more mills or to expand factories. But the demand, particularly from auto companies, the largest factor in the U.S. economy, swamped the manufacturers' abilities and took all the slack out before the Fed knew what was happening.

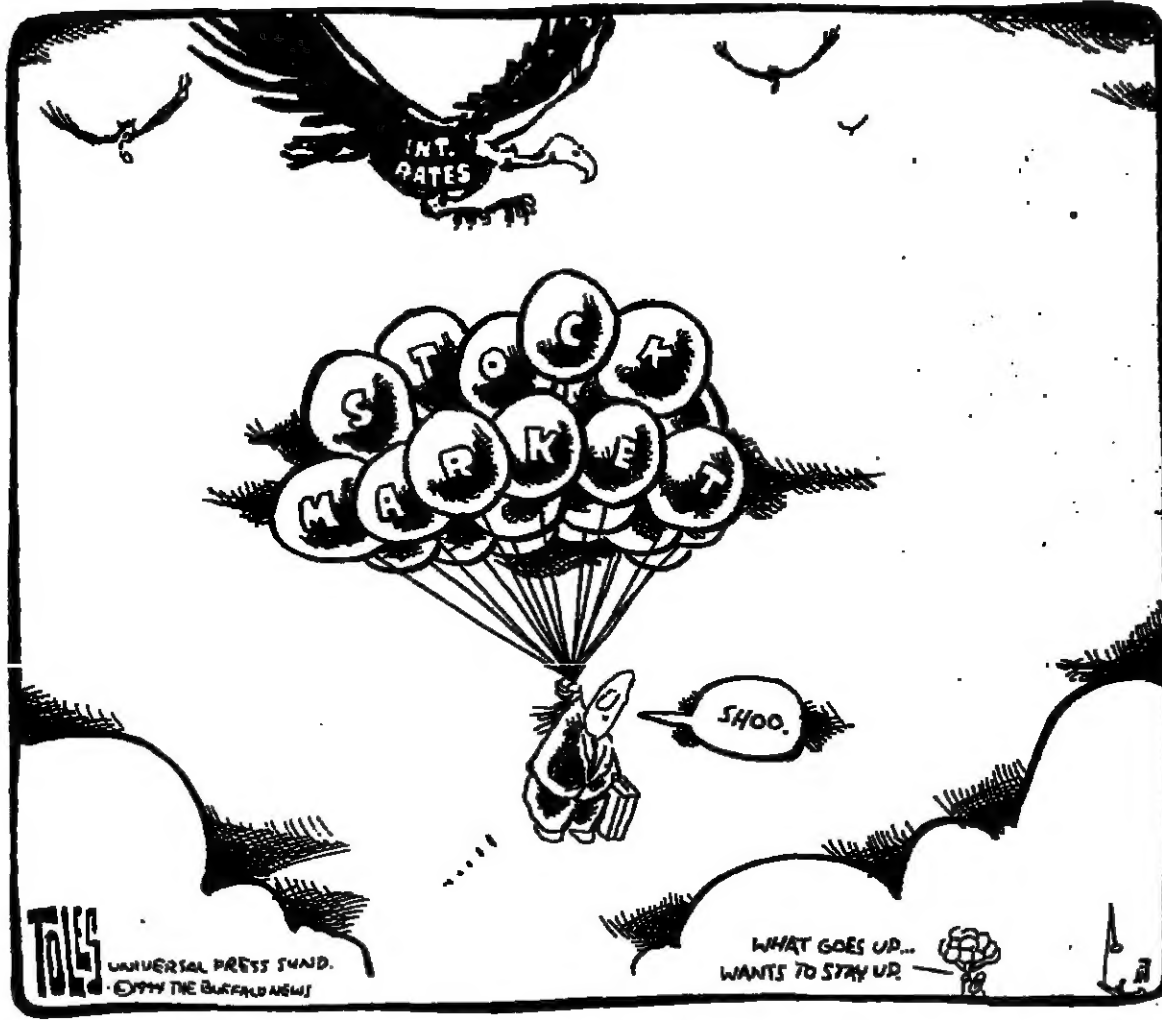
The auto companies, always the worst at measuring their own markets, had just finished the greatest retrenchment in their history, idling factories and workers by the thousands, at exactly the same time when demand began to soar. Their frantic attempt to meet demand has led to just the kinds of long work weeks, overtime and commodity stockpiling that the Fed most fears.

Sadly, just when the Fed pulled out the sledgehammer, its previous rate hikes already had begun to daze the economy: gold prices had been slumping, commodity prices shipping, hourly wages falling. Just when the Fed is depriving the auto companies and banks of the ability to make low-interest loans, the auto companies have finally built up their inventories. Just when the adjustable rate mortgages have gotten too high for most consumers, the housing companies have built more homes than they can sell. And just when the consumer faces a higher interest rate bill on charge cards, spending has apparently slowed — right in time to leave stores overstocked at Christmas. In short, just when the economy was about to go in for a soft landing, the Fed pushed down on the throttle with reckless abandon.

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James J. Cramer

Recession '95



Fred Barnes

Damascus Postcard

Brushed Assad

For an audience with President Hafez al-Assad of Syria, you're taken up a steep hill on a wide traffic-free road to the presidential palace, which sits, isolated, overlooking Damascus. It was built in 1989 (Assad's architect, Saudi financing) as Assad's home, only he doesn't live there. It's easy to see why. The palace, heroic in scale, has the look of an oversized junior high school. Now it is used solely for ceremonial events. The front door opens into a hallway resembling the set of a Cecil B. De Mille movie. The ceiling is high, the hallway as long as a football field, and Assad stands in the distance, at the end of red carpet and just inside the door of the room where he meets small delegations. My group, organized by the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, consisted of six people. After we sat down, I pulled out my tape recorder. Assad didn't appear to mind, but a couple of minutes later an anxious aide walked over and snatched it. "Please, no," he said. I figured the guy was a bodyguard. The turned out to be the chief of protocol.

Assad is 64, thin and suffering from diabetes and heart trouble. His son and heir apparent, Basil, was killed in a car wreck last January. He faces the prospect of being odd man out as peace spreads among Israel's Arab neighbors. Still, the Syrian leader seems in no hurry to sign a treaty with Israel. In our session on December 4, he chuckled, grinned and bantered. He complained half-seriously that the United States has too many elections and too few experienced leaders. Since Joseph Sisco, the former undersecretary of state and deputy to Henry Kissinger, was in the group, Assad told a story and a few jokes about Kissinger. He also noted journalists are "human beings." That was reassuring.

Assad feels none of the urgency that prompted Anwar Sadat, Yasir Arafat and King Hussein of Jordan to settle with Israel. Why should he? President Clinton

rewarded Assad's intransigence by visiting Damascus for more than four hours of talks on October 27. Then, Assad was more concerned with making sure Clinton could claim progress in the Syrian-Israeli peace process than with actually assuaging the Israelis. Assad gave Clinton two tid-bits — he'd give Israel more time to vacate the Golan, and he'd consider resuming direct talks. Though Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin dismissed these, Assad says Israel must offer concessions now. "There is not only one ball but many balls in Israel's court," he told us.

In peace talks in Paris, the Vietnamese delegate spoke the first day and Kissinger was supposed to speak on the second. But the Vietnamese diplomat demanded to speak on the second day, too. "Please, do," Kissinger said. "You're a liar," the Vietnamese said. Kissinger waited for more, but the delegate said, "That's it."

Reuters reported that "diplomats" believed Assad's comments to us were "an encouraging sign," coming two days before Secretary of State Warren Christopher arrived in Damascus. I don't know why diplomats thought that. They weren't in the room. No one in my group was "encouraged." As best I could tell, American officials are correct in thinking that Assad regards peace with Israel as desirable but not necessary. Negotiations with Israel "remain at point zero," he said without lament. The pressure to compromise has slackened for several reasons. He no longer has to maintain war footing against Israel. The military option is gone now that there is no superpower backing him. His economy is improving. The military seems happy.

Assad recoils at the idea of direct talks with Rabin. He rejects the theory that

principals can, in a summit meeting, make dramatic progress. "In reality, that just doesn't happen," he insisted. What's worse, Assad added, is that "when a misunderstanding takes place between the leaders of two countries, it could be very difficult to undo." He repeated a story Kissinger had told him two decades ago. In peace talks in Paris, the Vietnamese delegate spoke the first day and Kissinger was supposed to speak on the second. But the Vietnamese diplomat demanded to speak on the second day, too. "Please, do," Kissinger said. "You're a liar," the Vietnamese said. Kissinger waited for more, but the delegate said, "That's it." Kissinger then gave his speech. "I believe [he] behaved with courtesy but how many can behave this way?" Assad didn't explain the story beyond that, but I took it to mean that talks can collapse if leaders are insulted.

while underlings can brush off slurs and proceed.

Assad isn't interested in a direct secret channel for communicating with Rabin, either. American officials proposed this to him, but he dismissed it as an unacceptable concession. Instead, Assad wants the United States, namely Clinton and Christopher, to carry his messages to Rabin as the whole world watches. The president said his foreign minister, Farouk al-Shara, shouldn't have told my group to take a message to the Israelis. (That message was: "It is their turn to respond privately.") Assad said he wouldn't send a message by unofficial mediators. "If I were to give you a message, what is going to be left for the secretary of state?"

There's a contradictory aspect to Assad's relations with the United States. If his goal is to enlist the United States

as Syria's superpower patron, replacing the Soviet Union, he has a funny way of going about it. Assad only takes half-steps that never quite satisfy American officials. He wants Syria removed from the State Department's list of countries that sponsor terrorism. But while some terrorists have left the country, he declines to deport the worst perpetrators of terrorism, George Habash and Ahmad Jabril. The best Western diplomats can say about Syria is that, as far as they know, it has not carried out any state-sponsored terrorism in the West since 1986. That's not enough to get it off the list.

For the moment, the fondest dream of the administration is for Assad to conduct diplomacy aimed at Israeli public opinion. If Assad would just make peace noises, Israelis would soften on Syria and Rabin would be freer to compromise — that's the theory anyway. Assad doesn't buy it. "Each of us is responsible for dealing with [public opinion] in his own manner in his own country," he told us. "If you can't lead your own people, what's the meaning of being a leader?" The question was rhetorical.

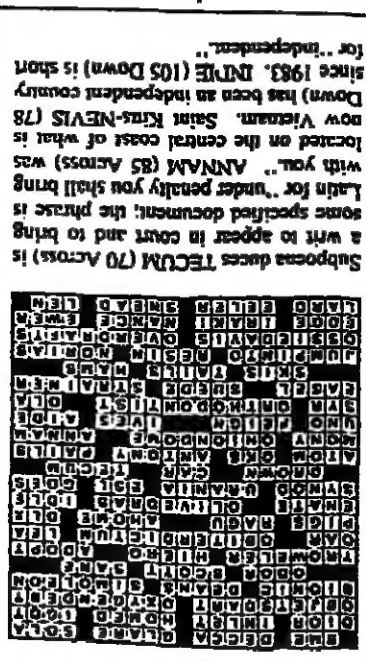
The few times Assad and Shara agreed to engage in public diplomacy, the results were disastrous. While in Washington in October, Shara was interviewed on Israeli T.V. He was prepped by Dennis Ross, an aide to Christopher. The interview went well until he denied that Syria had sheltered Israeli settlers from the Golan Heights, which Syria held before the 1967 war. This falsehood drew a hostile reaction in Israel. Assad fared even worse at his press conference in Damascus following talks with Clinton. He agreed beforehand to denounce the killing of innocent civilians wherever it occurs. This was a sensitive point in Israel because a bus filled with passengers had just been blown up by terrorists. Clinton, in fact, coached Assad in exactly what he'd say. But when asked about terrorism, Assad turned defensive, defying anyone to prove Syria had participated in terrorism. He didn't mention innocent civilians. Clinton had to jump in and put words in Assad's mouth. "We do not, we

cannot and we will not support the killing of innocent civilians," and President Assad has said it repeatedly and said it to me, I mean today, that he thought that was wrong as well, wherever it occurred, whether in the bus incident or in Hebron." Afterward, Clinton was livid. But it could have been worse. Assad could have said what he told us: terrorism and human rights are mere "phrases now in fashion." He likened those who raise them to people who play the same record over and over.

Assad leaves no chance for Syrians to forget who is in charge. There are pictures of him everywhere. At the war museum, there's one of Assad amid balloons and roses. At the Jordanian border, he's holding binoculars. The caption: "WE ♥ ASSAD." Recently, billboards with his face and peace slogans were installed on the highway from the airport. Assad said he had no idea how they got there. "I didn't put them up. I swear to God." On the other hand, he didn't order them taken down.

Fred Barnes is a senior editor for The New Republic

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Updating albums — perfect idea for a rainy day

ON CAMERA
DAVID BRAUNER

ON these cold, wet winter days, the last thing anyone wants to do is go out and photograph.

So what's to be done, stuck at home? How about opening that drawer or box full of old photos?

There they are: the helter-skelter memories of years of birthday parties, family holidays and visits from grandma and granddad. You'll probably find that the prints and negatives are still in their original envelopes, just as they came back from the shop.

Once a photo archivist told me: For photos to have worth, they must be ordered in such a way that they can be found and viewed. Good advice, and once you get started, the spade-work is never as daunting as it seems.

The first thing to do is make a stab at going through the envelopes to see what's inside them. Make some general notes on the envelopes: names, places, subjects, dates. Write lightly in pencil to be sure not to damage the pictures inside.

At the same time that you're renewing your acquaintance with old friends, begin setting aside your favorites from each envelope. These need not be the technically superior shots, but rather those that are most meaningful.

Once the sorting and selection process is over, it's time to think how best to display your pictures.



A collage of unsorted pictures awaits caring hands. Begin by setting aside your favorites.

(David Brauner)

Of course, albums are the first things that come to mind. Ready-made albums are expensive, but they are convenient. For the do-it-yourselfer, there are loose-leaf notebooks, a hole-punch and medium-weight cardboard available from stationery and art supply shops. The advantage of home-made loose-leaf albums is that one can always add and remove pages.

Make sure the cardboard is acid-free, because conventional paper products, over time, can damage photographs. Use only glue stick in small dabs or spray-on photo mounting cement (if you can find it) to adhere photos to card and other surfaces.

Although most families simply fill up albums one after the other chronologically, consider "running" a number of albums at the

same time. Each one may be devoted to a different family member or topic, like hobbies or special occasions. The album can be further sub-divided, leaving blank pages to be filled as the years go by.

Let your imagination be your guide. The days when albums had four or six pictures to the page in neat rows are over. Let pictures overlap at interesting angles. Stick in other mementos, like postcards, letters, invitations or even a lock of the dog's hair. Write your captions using colored felt-tip pens. In other words, albums are to enjoy.

Get the kids and grandparents to help; everybody likes oohing and aahing at old photos.

In addition to being a primary means for displaying your favorite pictures, albums also protect

and preserve. Here are a few more pointers on the care and handling of photographs:

- On receipt of your prints from the photo processor, identify each photo with relevant information like names, places and dates.

- When writing on the reverse of photos, use a pen that does not blot or smudge. Nothing is more annoying than prints ruined by ink stains.

- Write only on a hard, flat, dust-free surface and do not press down. Otherwise the writing will show through onto the emulsion side.

- Handle pictures and negatives only by their edges. Fingerprints damage the emulsion and are notoriously difficult to remove.

- Do not throw loose photos or negatives into any old plastic car-

rier bag. Over time certain plastics can react with emulsions.

- The sleeves your negatives come in from the shop are the best protection against dust and finger oils. Never cut negatives into lengths of less than four frames.

- Avoid keeping your loose pictures, negatives and albums in damp basements, storerooms where chemicals or cleaning materials are kept, or hot, dusty attics. Pictures, even in boxes, envelopes and drawers, will eventually fade and crack if the container is regularly exposed to direct sunlight, radiator heat and abnormally high relative humidity.

Wide fluctuations in temperature and humidity are particularly detrimental to negatives and transparencies.

Rise and fall of Zion under the Sultan

THERE AND THEN
SHAYLA SHAPIRO

HOPE dawned in the Holy Land after the Ottoman Turks defeated the cruel Mamelukes in Egypt in 1516.

Suleiman the Magnificent, whose domain extended from Persia to central Europe, did not forget Jerusalem. He ordered the building of thick walls, which took three years to erect, around what was then a small, provincial town. And the little town of Safed, on the road between Damascus and Acre, won protection from marauding Beduin with the construction of a bulwark around its living quarters. Jewish immigration, which had almost stopped in previous years, gained momentum.

The full story of the period is told by Dr. Avraham David in *Aliya Vehiyashuv Be'Eretz Yisrael Bamea Hashesh-Ereah* ("Immigration and Settlement in the Land of Israel in the 16th Century," published by Rubin Mass, 260 pp.).

As the new regime restricted neither the place of residence nor the trades of Jewish immigrants, the Jews spread all over the country, trying their hand at all sorts of occupations. Many turned to agriculture, though infidels could not buy land, according to Moslem laws. Safed became a center for textiles — like a precursor of Manchester or Lodz — in the Middle East.

Many Spanish Jews, famous for the manufacture of woolen and silk fabrics, transferred their skills to their new country. And, David notes, there were also Jewish silversmiths, carpenters, cobblers and physicians.

And of course there were traders. A quarter of Jerusalem's shops were owned by Jews. On many occasions, the shopkeepers quarreled with the Jewish peddlers who made the rounds of streets and villages in the area.

Meanwhile Safed imported wool and exported fabrics to Damascus and Cairo, cotton and silk to Venice. Most Safed Jews did good business.

"This is not Diaspora as we know it," a visitor to Safed wrote in 1535. "The Turks respect honorable Jews. The inspectors of taxes here and in Alexandria are Jews. No injustice exists in the whole realm."

But good relations depended on the tacit behavior of non-Moslems. Under Moslem laws, infidels had few rights.

"Never raise a hand or a foot against a Moslem," warned a Jerusalem rabbi in a letter in 1523. "Don't raise your voice, even against the small fry. Just try to appease and to bribe a little. When the Ishmaelite sees submission, he is appeased.... And then a Jew can go with his green cap, with his merchandise wherever he wishes."

Another rabbi wrote to his Venetian correspondent: "There is no other land where there are so many taxes imposed on Jews, especially in Jerusalem. Had not Jewish communities from everywhere sent contributions, no Jew would be able to sustain himself in the city."

Some very rich Egyptian Jews who came to live in Jerusalem had influence with the Ottoman authorities due to their great wealth. Avraham Castro, for example, played a key role in the

construction of Jerusalem's walls. In the field of philanthropy, immigrants such as Avraham Ibn-Shangi and Shlomo Alascar led the way. More than 200 Jews in Jerusalem lived on charity.

THE CENTER of attraction for the Jews was not Jerusalem but Safed. Perhaps the chances of eking out a living were better in Galilee. Another reason for Jews moving to Safed was the popular belief that the Messiah would emerge in Galilee.

The Safed community included immigrants from Spain, Provence, Venice and North Africa. Each group insisted on erecting its own synagogue and yeshiva. Perhaps students wanted commentaries in their native tongue — as many pupils of Jerusalem yeshivot in the 20th century want Yiddish-speaking tutors.

Safed became home to many famous scholars. It was in Safed that Rabbi Yosef Caro composed his *Shulchan Arukh*, the codified version of Jewish law. And it was there, too, that Rabbi Yitzhak Luria, "the holy Ari," left his imprint on Kabbalah.

Not far from Safed, in Tiberias, Don Yosef Nassi won a charter to turn the town into a virtual autonomous region. The inhabitants had to pay rent to the Sultan, but were free to settle their affairs as they wished.

This proto-Zionist endeavor soon encountered difficulties. Few Jews volunteered to move to Tiberias. Don Yosef's representative appealed to the authorities and the local pasha sent in troops, who killed a number of recalcitrant Jews as a warning. Moreover, the Franciscans in the neighborhood used their influence with the local authorities to thwart the Jewish bid for independence.

A familiar pattern of history emerges: "Conquest in Europe causes a drastic change in government. Hard-pressed Jews flock to Eretz Yisrael, which they help to develop through their intrinsic energy, in spite of obstacles placed by unsympathetic forces. There is the vague promise of national rebirth, while an intellectual upheaval — necessarily confined to religious thought, this being the 16th century — looms in the air."

The period of hope and prosperity ended, in the last quarter of the century, with a grave economic crisis. The mainstay of Safed's manufacturers collapsed when Sultan Murad III exiled a thousand of the town's richest men to Cyprus, in a bid to help develop that island.

The Jews could not fight the Sultan, and, as a result of the economic crisis, they began to emigrate. Those who remained gradually fell into poverty. Centuries later, new waves of immigrants found only dismal communities in Jerusalem and Safed.

The road to kindergarten is paved with battles

IF you see two people on our block arguing these days, you can bet your life that their topic is: Will Amir Kishon go to kindergarten or won't he? The betting is 3:1 in favor of "won't" and Amir, to be sure, stays at home.

It wasn't always like that. When we first brought him to that nice kindergarten round the corner, he took to it like a duck to water. He joined the crowd, wove plastic mats with the best of them, and rung-a-ring o'roses like the tyro he was. By next morning, though, he knew the score:

"I won't go to kindergarten!" he yelled. "Mummy-Daddy, not kindergarten! I won't! I won't! I won't!"

We asked why not kindergarten, you loved it, didn't you? But Amir gave no reasons, he just wouldn't go, he'd sooner emigrate, anything but go to kindergarten.

Our good neighbors the Seligs frowned heavily upon our meek surrender.

"Pooh," said Erna. "That's no way to handle a child of three. Don't plead with him. Just take him to his kindergarten and that's it!"

Ah, what a woman: firm, resolute, no nonsense about her. Too bad she has no children of her own. Deeply impressed, we bundled Amir up next morning and took him on a one-way trip to the kindergarten. Just left him there and went off, we did.

He yelled, he kicked — we didn't care. We shook hands, his mother and I, very pleased with ourselves. He's crying? Let him! That's what he's got lungs for, what?

Only much later, a minute, a minute-and-a-half, we nevertheless began to wonder: is he still crying? We rushed back and found our student standing by the gate and shaking it — or rather, himself — with might and main: "Mum-mum! Mum-mum!"

KISHON'S KEYHOLE
EPHRAIM KISHON

So power politics had failed. Violence begets violence. About a week later we went to see the Birnboims who live on our street, a nice couple, nothing special but still, and conversation turned on kindergartens in general, and on the one particular garden our kinder refused to go to.

"He won't," we concluded, "he just won't."

"Of course he won't," said Mrs. Birnboim, who's a very cultured sort of woman. "He won't because you're trying to force him. He's not a puppy you can train. Look, take our Gaby. He refuses to go to kindergarten too, but the last thing we'd do is force him. We're waiting patiently till he himself asks us to take him there."

"If you don't, if you start on the wrong foot with kindergarten, your child may well end up hating school of any kind, he may take an aversion to learning as such! So no, we don't force him. It's a bit of a nuisance of course, but it's worth it."

We were green with envy.

"And it works, does it?"

"You bet it does!" thus our host. "From time to time we ask Gaby, casual-like, you know: 'Gaby, how about going to kindergarten tomorrow?' Just that. And if it's no — it's no. I'm positive that one day he'll come of his own accord and beg us to take him there."

Here Gaby stuck his head through the door: "Daddy, come and tuck me in." "Come, Gaby," said Mr. Birnboim. "Come in nicely and say hello to our visitors. They've got a little boy at home just like you." "Yeah," said Gaby. "Tuck me in, though." "In a minute." "Now!" "First be a good boy and say hello to our visitors."

I shook Gaby's hand. A nice

boy, tall, well built, looking a bit like Jack Nicholson only perhaps a year or two older. He needed a shave, did Gaby.

"Excuse me just a moment," Birnboim got up for the tucking-in.

"Gaby," said Mrs. Birnboim casual-like, "You want to go to kindergarten tomorrow?"

"Nope."

"As you wish, darling. Nighty-night."

"Actually I don't mind his not going," Mrs. Birnboim confessed when father and son had left the room. "He's due to join the Army next year anyway, he wouldn't really be happy among those toddlers..."

We left the Birnboims in a pensive mood. We agreed with their tactics on the whole, but the end result didn't seem quite satisfactory. Anyhow, we said to ourselves, this entire kindergarten business is being more trouble than it's worth. Who says a child has to go to kindergarten in the first place? Did I go to kindergarten when I was little? I did, but so what? Maybe we'd better drop the whole idea?

Our family doctor gave us the final push when he said: "It's pretty risky sending a child to kindergarten right now. There's a flu epidemic on, and they all catch it from each other..."

With a sigh of relief we summoned our student: "Amir," we told him, "You're in luck. The doctor says you aren't to go to kindergarten because there's all kinds of nasty diseases there. So no more kindergarten for you!"

And that's the end of the kindergarten problem. Amir goes every morning and spends all his time waiting for the microbes. Wild horses couldn't drag him away from there. Whenever our admirers ask how we managed it, we just lift an eyebrow and say airily: "By medical means."

Translated by Miriam Arad

Holy canines! Pets in the Bible

HEADS 'N' TAILS
DYORA BEN SHAI

THIS week's mail brought some interesting questions. "Did our ancestors in Israel keep dogs? And if so, why are dogs almost always mentioned negatively in the Scriptures?" asks a high-school pupil from Tel Aviv.

Our ancestors were certainly familiar with dogs; even back in Egypt, at the time of the Exodus, the Almighty commanded silence of the dogs, that they not betray the Children of Israel.

Dogs also appear in the paintings in the Beni Hasan tomb in Egypt. Just to what degree they were domesticated is not known for sure. By the time of the Second Temple, dogs were familiar around the home and were considered property since the Mishna has specific regulations as to what a dog owner's liability is if it damages property, for instance by breaking things in a potter's shed.

It is true that of the 20 or so references to dogs in the Scriptures, most are derogatory. Dogs were not only ritually unclean animals but could also contaminate an entire household by bringing some unclean thing home.

This required ritual purification that was both tiresome and sometimes expensive and therefore the dog was held in low regard.

It is certain that dogs were used for hunting. Rock carvings in Sinai from the second century CE show ibex being hunted by a man and two dogs, one clearly a Canaan breed and the other resembling a Saluki.

Our ancestors may well have used dogs to help hunt because the prey had to be ritually slaugh-

tered and could not be felled by spears, arrows or slingshots. The animals had to be either trapped or held at bay by dogs, and then subdued and ritually slaughtered.

Jews may also have used dogs for herding, but it is more likely that they used them as guards for their flocks since nowhere in the Middle East did a true herding breed of dog develop.

This is in contrast to almost all other herding cultures.

ANOTHER QUESTION has to do with cats. A reader in Beer-sheva writes: "The Bible is full of lists of all sorts of animals and birds, even reptiles and insects, but the cat is not mentioned at all. Why is this? Surely there were cats in ancient Israel."

Cats were almost certainly known to our forefathers, even from the Egyptian exile. After all, the cat was first domesticated there. Yet it is not mentioned in the Scriptures.

It is quite possible that because the cat had been deified and was one of the Egyptian pantheon it was deliberately ignored, as were other Egyptian deities.

It seems likely that cats were not kept as domestic animals at that time in Israel, for cats are first mentioned in the Talmudic period and then more or less in passing.

On the other hand it may have been a simple oversight since the Tanach is not, after all, a textbook of zoology or a naturalist's guide.

There seems little doubt that the world of our ancestors was one where domestic animals were kept not as pets but mostly for utilitarian purposes.

HAIFA WELCOME HOME FUND SCHOLARSHIPS

The Jerusalem Post Welcome Home Fund will present 14 scholarships on Monday, December 26 at 5 p.m., to residents of Haifa, at City Hall, 14 Rehov Hassan Shukri, in the presence of the Mayor.

Readers of The Post who would like to attend the presentation should phone Ofra, Hiya or Sigal at 04-356350/1 for details.

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Notably quotable: What they said in 1994

Remembering the words of New York Yankee great Yogi Berra, "I didn't always say what I said," here is a selection of 1994's most notable quotes:

"I was proud to compete against him. Professionally, Ayrton Senna was the only driver I respected. In Senna's honor, I will never sit in a Formula One car again." — **Alain Prost**

"He was the only person in this country who made us feel proud to be Brazilians. He gave us dignity, and to see him race was a relief from all the corruption, misery and poverty that surrounds us." — **23-year-old law student Fernando Machado Lemos** as he waited to see Ayrton Senna's coffin.

"Me, they killed me. I'm completely dead. They cut my legs away from me. I think they've now cut my entire body away. I don't know where I stand. I can't find myself." — **Diego Maradona** after being banned from the World Cup.

"I've been looking for new kitchen curtains for a long time." — **Norwegian goalkeeper Erik Thorstved** after trading jerseys with Mexican keeper Jorge Campos at the World Cup.

"I'm a real popular mayor. But I don't want to stretch my popularity that far." — **Dallas Mayor Steve Bartlett** about a World Cup 1994 proposal to ban alcohol sales during the tournament.

"I get letters from Princess Di thanking me for taking her out of the headlines." — **former England manager Graham Taylor**, who was fired after not qualifying for the World Cup.



WITH A WHIMPER AND A BANG — Graham Taylor (l) was fired as England soccer coach, while Martina Navratilova retired from tennis at the pinnacle.

gland for the World Cup.

"Not so long ago we were teaching the Americans how to play. Now I've got work permits for them piling up on my desk." — **English soccer players union head Gordon Taylor**.

"I've been at the twilight of my career longer than most people have had their careers." — **Martina Navratilova**, who retired after the 1994 season.

"Probably everybody needs Monica Seles back. I think that's what everybody needs so I wouldn't have to answer that question anymore." — **Steffi Graf**.

"It'll take me two months to get in shape, and I'll be back in the ring. And believe me, my lips won't move." — **heavyweight contender Ray Mercer**, after being acquitted of making a mid-fight offer of \$100,000 for an underdog opponent to take a dive.

"I exorcised the ghost once and for all." — **George Foreman**, 45, after knocking out Michael Moorer to win the IBF and WBA heavyweight championships, on his loss to Muhammad Ali 30 years ago.

"I'd just like to say I'm really sorry I interfered." — **Tonya Harding**, after pleading guilty to conspiring to hinder prosecution in the attack on rival skater Nancy Kerrigan.

"I'm struggling to see the funny side, but I suppose in time it will be good to know I was a part of history." — **Durham wicket-keeper Chris Scott** after dropping Brian Lara on 18. Lara, the West Indies and Warwickshire batsman, went on to score a record 501.

"The thing I miss most in my life right now is that element of risk. I really enjoyed putting it all on the line. God wasn't ready to take me, but he wanted to slow me down." — **paralyzed former world motorcycle champion Wayne Rainey**.

"For a long time, I barely raced any downhill, but now I can calculate the risks quite well. If your time is up, it's up — it could happen in the street, anywhere." — **Ulrike Maier** in an interview a month before her death.

"Right now, I have no reason to believe the Chinese federation is behind it. We have no proof of a systematic or governmental doping campaign." — **FINA secretary Gunnar Werner**.

England responds to Atherton's gamble

MELBOURNE (Reuter) — England's bowlers repaid the faith of captain Mike Atherton by seizing control of the second Ashes Test against Australia yesterday.

Australia struggled to reach 220 for seven at the close after being sent in to bat by Atherton in overcast conditions at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

The home side, which lead the five-Test series 1-0, would have been in even deeper trouble but for batting half centuries from the Waugh twins, Steve and Mark.

The outcome appeared to justify Atherton's aggressive decision to bowl on a slightly damp pitch in the hope of exploiting the conditions to dismiss the opposition cheaply.

"We are quite pleased with the outcome," England team manager Keith Fletcher said afterwards. "We decided to bowl because there was some damp in the wicket and the ball certainly moved off the seam a bit and turned off the damp patches," he added.

Mark Waugh, who abandoned his normal flamboyant style to compile a restrained 71 off 155 balls, remained optimistic about Australia's prospects of repeating last month's success in Brisbane.

Fellow all-rounder Steve responded to his brother's example to remain unbeaten on 61.

S. Waugh lost his seventh-wicket partner in the last over of the day when pace bowler Damien Gough found the edge of Shane Warne's bat and Graeme Hick

took a fine diving catch at slip. Gough, seamer Phil DeFreitas and spinner Phil Tufnell each took two wickets in a vastly improved bowling and fielding performance by England.

Fast bowler Devon Malcolm, who missed the first test because of chicken pox, failed to take a wicket but troubled all the batsmen with his pace and lift.

The tone for the day was set early on when opener Michael Slater was run out for three in the seventh over following a smart reaction from DeFreitas in the cover.

Fellow opener and captain Mark Taylor followed shortly afterwards after being trapped leg before by DeFreitas for nine to leave his side side reeling at 39 for two.

Mark Waugh was joined by David Boon who hit a typically resolute 41 before finding an outside edge to give Hick a simple chance at slip off of Tufnell.

Michael Bevan had scored just three when he was caught by Atherton in the gully fending off a short-pitched delivery by Gough.

A fifth-wicket stand of 71 between the Waugh brothers of tea undermined some of England's earlier work, but Mark's luck finally ran out when DeFreitas returned.

Having followed last month's Test century in fine but restrained style, the all-rounder cut a short wide looser to point where Graham Thorpe held a tumbling catch low to his left.

Cowboys, 49ers corner Pro Bowl market

NEW YORK (AP) — The Dallas Cowboys placed 11 players in the Pro Bowl and the San Francisco 49ers had nine in voting announced over the weekend.

As expected, Emmitt Smith, Troy Aikman, Michael Irvin and Charles Haley were selected in voting by National Football League players, coaches and fans for the February 5 game in Honolulu.

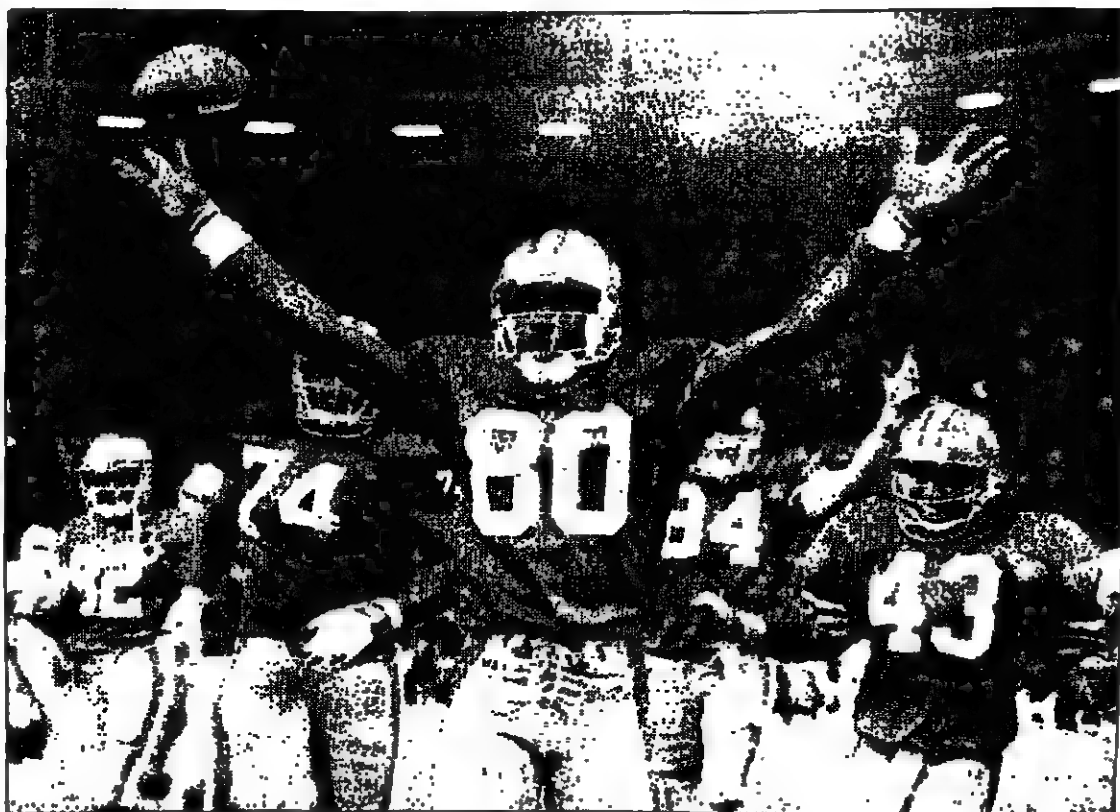
Joining those perennial choices from the Cowboys were defensive tackle Leon Lett, safety Darren Woodson and offensive tackle Mark Tuinei, all for the first time. Also selected for the NFC team on offense were Dallas' Mark Stepnoski, Nate Newton, Jay Novacek and Daryl Johnston.

Smith, Newton, Stepnoski, Haley, Lett and Woodson all will be starters.

San Francisco's Jerry Rice will be making his ninth appearance, and will have with him teammates Steve Young and Brent Jones on offense, Deion Sanders and Merton Hanks in the secondary. The backups from the 49ers were Jesse Sapolu and Bart Oates on the offensive line, Dana Stubblefield and Tim McDonald on defense.

Six Pittsburgh Steelers led the voting for the AFC squad, four of them starters: Dermontti Dawson on offense; Rod Woodson, Carnell Lake and Greg Lloyd on defense. The backups were guard Duval Love and linebacker Kevin Greene, who leads the NFL with 14 sacks.

Two players chasing NFL records also will start for the AFC. Minnesota's Kris Carter, who broke Sterling Sharpe's single-season reception mark, will be at wide receiver along with Rice. Green Bay's Sharpe will be a backup.



SIX-POINT KING — 49ers All Pro wide receiver Jerry Rice celebrates after setting all-time TD record in September. Rice broke Jim Brown's record of 127.

And Detroit's Barry Sanders, the league's leading rusher, will start alongside Smith in the backfield. It will be the sixth straight season in the Pro Bowl for Sanders.

The rest of the NFC starters on offense will be New Orleans' William Roaf and Detroit's Lomas Brown at tackle, and Minnesota guard Randall McDaniel. On defense, it will be Green Bay's Reggie White and Bryce Paup; Minnesota's John Randle; Washington's Ken Harvey; Detroit's Chris Spielman; and Arizona's Aeneas Williams.

Selected as specialists were Washington punter Reggie Roby,

Minnesota placekicker Fead Revez, kick returner Mel Gray and special teamer Elbert Shelley of Atlanta.

The NFC backups included Minnesota's Warren Moon and Jerome Bettis of the Rams on offense; Philadelphia's William Fuller, Arizona's Seth Joyner, Atlanta's Jessie Tuggle and Philadelphia's Eric Allen on defense.

In addition to the six Steelers, the AFC team had five Miami Dolphins: starters Dan Marino, Keith Sims and Richmond Webb, reserves Irving Fryar and Bryan Cox.

Marino will make his eighth appearance and third in a row.

The Buffalo Bills managed to place only three players on the squad: starters Andre Reed at wide receiver and Bruce Smith at defensive end, plus special teamer Steve Tasker.

The other offensive starters for the AFC were running back Marshall Faulk of Indianapolis, the only rookie to make the Pro Bowl this year; Tim Brown and Steve Wisniewski of the Los Angeles Raiders; Bruce Armstrong and Ben Coates of New England; and Natrone Means of San Diego.

Cincinnati, Tampa Bay, Chicago and the New York Giants had no representatives.

Brian Lara dominated the cricket pitches in 1994

Other highlights: Atherton's 'sweaty' ball

LONDON (AP) — Before Brian Lara had picked up a bat in 1994, Sir Gary Sobers held the record for the highest Test innings, Hanif Mohammad had the biggest first class score and Warwickshire was considered an outsider in England's cricket competitions.

By the end of the summer, Lara had made history.

Batting against England at St John's, Antigua, the West Indian left-hander beat Sobers' 36-year-old record score of 365 by 10 runs.

Batting for Warwickshire against Durham at Edgbaston, he overtook Hanif's 499 to finish up 501 not out. Ironically, both those games were drawn although the West Indies won the series 3-1 against England and Warwickshire enjoyed unprecedented success during the county season.

Lara, who also scored 147 on his debut for Warwickshire, helped the county win three titles, the county championship, the Benson and Hedges Cup and the Sunday League.

Warwickshire almost made it a first over sweep, losing to Worcestershire in the final of the NatWest Trophy, where Lara scored 81.

The 25-year-old batting phenomenon averaged over 100 playing for Warwickshire and then returned to the West Indies for a three-Test series in India.

With his team behind 1-0 in the series going to the last Test, Lara scored a rapid 91 and helped set up a 243-run victory.

Lara wasn't the only star of the West Indies team in 1994. Fast bowler Curtly Ambrose terrorized the English batsmen, especially in Trinidad, where they were bowled out for 46, and he took six for 24 to return match figures of 11 for 84.

India surprised the West Indies by scoring a 96-run victory in Bombay, its 10th triumph in a row on home soil. Sachin Tendulkar continued to shine with the bat, well supported by Navjot Singh Sidhu, but Indian cricket fans were in anguish over the decision by their greatest all-rounder, Kapil Dev, to retire from the game.

Pakistan gained a 1-0 home series victory over Australia, which three times squandered winning positions under new captain Mark Taylor, the replacement for retired Allan Border.

Salim Malik scored a double century in Rawalpindi to rescue a draw for Pakistan, which won the Test at Karachi thanks to a record half-century stand by the last pair.

The Australians, with leg spinner Shane Warne continuing to baffle the English, responded by heating England by 184 runs at



TOP GUN — Brian Lara raises his hands after scoring 375 runs, becoming the highest Test run scorer of all time, passing the 365 of Sir Garfield Sobers.

Brisbane at the end of November in the first test of the Ashes series.

England looked in position to save the match before Warne's 8 for 71 off 50 overs finished them off.

After losing 11 of their previous 14 Tests, the English had a reasonably good summer, gaining a 1-0 series victory over New Zealand followed by a 1-1 tie with South Africa.

They came from behind to win the third Test against the South Africans, thanks largely to a stunning performance of 9 for 57 by paceman Devon Malcolm in the tourists' second innings.

But team captain Michael Atherton came under fire in a bizarre incident when he was caught on television apparently pulling dirt from his pockets and shining the ball.

With a controversy on ball-tampering continually hitting the headlines, Atherton looked a guilty man. He explained later it was something to do with keeping the ball dry in sweaty conditions

but he was fined £2,000 for not giving that explanation to match officials.

It was a game England would want to forget anyway, bowled out for 99 in the second innings to lose by a massive 356 runs.

Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe, the two comparative newcomers to top class international cricket, posted two of the big upset victories of the season although made little impact in tests.

The Sri Lankans beat host nation South Africa in a one-day game while Zimbabwe humbled England in a one-day game in a four-team tournament in Australia.

Hong Kong is not likely to join the top nine international teams but is promoting cricket hard so that the game survives its takeover by China in 1997.

Hong Kong, which has doubled its spending on cricket to reinvent the game, assembled an all-Chinese team which played against largely expatriate teams in Taiwan and Beijing.

This Week on Cable TV

TODAY

CHANNEL 5

7:00 Bodies in motion 16:00 Bodies in motion 16:30 World rugby 17:00 Israeli soccer 18:00 NBA: Indiana v Chicago 19:30 Golf and a half 20:30 Soccer 20:30 College basketball 22:00 Argentinean league soccer 23:00 Golf and a half 00:00 Volleyball

EUROSPORT

9:30 Aerobics 10:00 World aerobics championships 11:00 Body building 12:00 Wrestling 13:00 Motorcycling 15:00 Formula 1 17:00 Wrestling 18:00 Dance 19:00 Body building 20:00 Martial arts 21:00 Motor racing 23:00 Soccer 00:00 Wrestling 1:00 Super stock car racing 2:00 Truck racing

PRIME SPORTS

6:00 Women's tennis highlights of 1994 8:00 Cricket: Australia v England highlights 9:00 Sailing highlights of 1994 10:00 International sports magazine 11:00 Roller skating highlights of 1994 13:00 Sports magazine 14:00 Athletics 15:00 Men's tennis highlights of 1994 17:00 Sailing highlights of 1994 19:00 Roller skating highlights of 1994 21:00 Sports magazine 22:00 Premier League highlights 23:00 Daily roundup 20:00 Soccer highlights of 1994 1:00 Sailing highlights of 1994

MONDAY DECEMBER 26

CHANNEL 5

7:00 Bodies in motion 16:00 Bodies in motion 16:30 College basketball 18:00 Argentinean league soccer 19:30 Israeli basketball 20:30 Bushido 20:30 European basketball 22:00 Premier League

highlights 23:00 NBA

EUROSPORT

9:30 Aerobics 10:00 Figure skating 12:00 Aerobics 13:00 Soccer 14:00 Wrestling 15:00 Figure skating 17:00 Body building 18:00 Truck racing 19:30 Wrestling 20:30 Eurosport news 21:00 Speed world 22:00 Motor racing 23:00 Soccer 00:00 Soccer 1:00 Eurogolf 2:30 Eurosport news

PRIME SPORTS

6:00 Men's tennis highlights of 1994 8:00 Sports magazine 9:00 Japanese baseball highlights 12:00 Aerobics 12:30 Talking baseball 13:00 Sports magazine 14:00 Swimming highlights of 1994 15:00 Golf highlights 16:00 Water sports magazine 17:00 Cricket: Australia v England 18:00 Japanese baseball highlights 21:00 Sports magazine 22:00 Talking baseball 23:00 Golf highlights 00:30 Water sports magazine 1:30 Aerobics

TUESDAY DECEMBER 27

CHANNEL 5

7:00 Bodies in motion 16:00 Bodies in motion 16:30 Israeli basketball 17:00 Volleyball 18:30 Premier League highlights 19:30 Daily roundup 20:00 Soccer highlights of 1994 1:00 Sailing highlights of 1994

EUROSPORT

9:30 Aerobics 10:00 Figure skating 12:00 Body building 13:00 Eurogolf 14:00 Wrestling 15:00 Superstars 16:00 Winter Olympics highlights 17:00 Speed world 18:00 Motor racing 19:00 Latin soccer 19:30 Eurogolf 20:30 Eurosport news 21:00 Olympic magazine 22:00 Athletics magazine

23:00 Boxing 00:00 Snooker 2:00 Eurosport news

PRIME SPORTS

6:00 Golf highlights 7:00 Sports magazine 8:00 Cricket: Australia v England 9:00 Swimming highlights of 1994 10:00 Baseball 12:30 Aerobics 12:30 Monday 13:00 Sports magazine 14:00 Swimming highlights of 1994 15:00 Golf highlights 16:00 Superstars 19:00 Baseball 20:00 Superstars 19:00 21:00 Soccer magazine 22:00 Monday 22:30 Swimming highlights of 1994 23:00 Golf 1994 00:30 Superstars 19:00 1:30 Aerobics

WEDNESDAY DEC 28

CHANNEL 5

7:00 Bodies in motion 16:00 Bodies in motion 16:30 NBA: New York v Chicago 18:30 NFL 19:30 Soccer roundup 20:00 Bushido 20:30 College basketball: UCLA v Kentucky 22:00 Soccer 23:00 Soccer roundup 00:00 European volleyball championships 1994

EUROSPORT

9:30 Aerobics 10:00 Figure skating 11:00 Athletics 12:00 Olympic magazine 13:00 Par East martial arts 14:00 Wrestling 15:00 Gymnastics 17:00 Snooker 17:30 Athletics 18:30 World Cup soccer highlights 20:00 Eurosport news 21:00 Boxing magazine 22:00 Motorcycling highlights 00:00 Wrestling 2:00 Eurosport news

PRIME SPORTS

6:00 Great golfing moments 7:00 Sports magazine 8:00 Cricket: Australia v England 9:00 Swimming highlights of 1994 10:00 Rugby 12:00 Aerobics 12:30 Wind-

مكثان الكحل

and responds to
erton's gamble

Hap Petah Tikva stays top; Maccabi crushes Hapoel in Haifa derby

ORI LEWIS

HAPOEL Petah Tikva did what no other soccer team managed to do over the last two months — hold onto the top spot in the National League.

Their slim, perhaps surprising victory over Bnei Yehuda yesterday means they still lead the standings by just one point, remaining ahead of Maccabi Tel Aviv, which is hot on their heels.

Up to third place moves Maccabi Haifa, which again scored an emphatic Haifa derby victory over Hapoel, 4-0.

Many questions will now be asked about the future of Hapoel coach Dror Kashtan. It will surprise no one if he is out looking for a job before the middle of the week.

Maccabi Haifa 4, Hapoel Haifa 0

Hapoel's high pre-season rating and its clutch of stars is failing to deliver the goods. If a change in fortunes does not come soon, Hapoel will also struggle to stay in the top flight next season.

Hapoel held its own during the first part of the match, but were only struggling to keep up with Maccabi, no more.

Surprisingly, Kashtan decided to leave Tal Ben Haim out of the starting lineup, a very surprising move in light of the fact that Reuven Atar was out injured.

Sergei Kandaurov put Maccabi ahead in the 25th minute with a long-range shot. They might have made it 2-0 on the stroke of halftime, had Haim Revivo managed to convert a controversial penalty, but the result stayed a slim 1-0 margin until Najwan Grayev came on as substitute later in the match. He changed the complexion of the match and helped wipe out Hapoel's feeble resistance with a goal in the 64th minute. Ben Haim had been brought on as sub, but it was too late to save Hapoel.

Kandaurov added his second goal from the penalty spot ten minutes later, after referee Yitzhak Ben-Yehuda had ordered the spot kick to be re-taken. Alon Hazan netted at the first attempt, but decided against taking the second kick.

Ronnie Levy made Hapoel's misery complete in the 86th minute with Maccabi's fourth goal.

The result has left many calling for Kashtan's head despite chairman Rubie Shapira's implicit statement in midweek that the beleaguered coach's job was secure.

Hapoel FT 1, Bet Jerusalem 0

A lone goal by Yossi Levy in the 67th minute ensured Petah Tikva's reign at the top would continue beyond just one week.

The match was an evenly-matched affair, but Betar suffered its second consecutive league loss in addition to injuries to two key players. Goalkeeper Giora Antmann had to be substituted after suffering a bruised leg. Betar made a further two substitutions. Then, later in the match, Eli Ohana was stretched off, writhing in pain with a rib injury, leaving Betar with 10 men.

The three Betar substitutions were a first in the National League — new FIFA regulations allow a goalkeeper to be replaced due to injury on any of the two regular replacements.

Maccabi Netanya 1, Hapoel Be'er Sheva 1

Argentinian import Claudio Camilli has kept Hapoel Be'er Sheva buoyant throughout the season, and they have not become the whipping boys; confounding the pundits' predictions.

Camilli came to the rescue again yesterday, pouncing on a rebounded shot from an indirect free-kick on the edge of the five-meter box.

The free kick was awarded after Netanya's keeper Ya'akov Beladev handled the ball off a back-pass from a teammate.

Roman Filipchuk ensured a share of the points when he got Netanya's equalizer in the 40th minute.

Bet. Tel Aviv 1, Mac. Tel Aviv 2

Maccabi was given a gift with a third-minute own goal by Nissan Cohen.

Moshe Eisenberg then made amends in the fifth minute as Maccabi's defense was still caught unaware.

The turning point came in the 17th minute, when Betar Azerbaijan international Shaban Denayev missed a penalty by shooting the ball directly at Alexander Obarov in goal.

Maccabi took control from that point and secured the match through Eli Driks's winner in the 38th minute.

After Denayev's miss, Betar never looked like threatening to score again.

Hapoel Tel Aviv 2, Bnei Yehuda 1

Hapoel was the better of the two sides in this match at Bloomfield.

Netzah Massabi put Bnei Yehuda ahead with a 10th-minute goal, but then a pair by Hapoel's Sagiv Eliyahu in the 15th and 32nd minutes meant all three points stayed at home.

Ironi Ashdod 1, Mac. Herzliya 1

A just result was settled by two first-half goals.

Amir Turjeman put Ashdod ahead in the 28th minute, slotting home from a pass from Eyal Almoushino. Yossi Madar equalized against the run of play nine minutes later, to see bottom-placed Herzliya gain another vital point.

Herziya coach Ze'ev Zeltzer, who took over as coach after being fired by Ashdod, has yet to lose a match since moving there last month.

Zafirim Holon 0, Ironi Rishon 0

A sloppy game on Friday had everybody unhappy. The disorganized play may have been blamed on the bumpy Holon pitch, considered to be the worst in the league, but neither side showed any inspiration and the 0-0 scoreline was the fairest result.

Hapoel Be'er Sheva 0, Mac. FT 0

An uneventful match passed by tamely with neither side able to wrest control. Both were eventually happy to settle for a share of the points.

Mac. Tel Aviv (1) Mac. Tel Aviv (2) Mac. Tel Aviv (3) Mac. Tel Aviv (4) Mac. Tel Aviv (5) Mac. Tel Aviv (6) Mac. Tel Aviv (7) Mac. Tel Aviv (8) Mac. Tel Aviv (9) Mac. Tel Aviv (10)

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Baseball salary cap hits the fan

Union to lodge labor complaint; Congress threatens antitrust action

NEW YORK (AP) — The decision by owners of Major League Baseball teams to impose a salary cap left three dozen players out of work and drew criticism from Congress.

Union officials said they will file an unfair labor practice complaint next Tuesday with the National Labor Relations Board and ask the agency to seek a preliminary injunction against the cap in US District Court. If the NLRB issues a complaint, a hearing is likely in February.

Congress will also try to strip owners of their antitrust exemption. Two Democratic senators, Daniel Patrick Moynihan of New York and Bob Graham of Florida, said Friday they would start the process when Congress reconvenes early next month.

The exemption, which the owners gained in a 1922 court decision, prohibits players and their union from suing team owners.

"Existence of this exemption has tilted the playing field, and that tilt has the potential of rolling Major League Baseball into the closet for the foreseeable future," Graham said.

Hours after owners imposed the cap on Friday, teams began releasing players instead of offering them 1995 contracts. Among those let go were New York Yankees pitcher Jim Abbott, Colorado Rockies third baseman Charlie Hayes and New York Mets pitcher Pete Harnisch.

"We just thought the money

that we would have to spend for them was over their market value, and we couldn't attend to that," said New York Yankees general manager Gene Michael, who also let go infielder Randy Velarde. "Both of them are free to negotiate now with anyone, and that includes us."

The 21 teams over the cap, out of 28 total, must reduce their pay-

rolls by a total of \$56.2 million next season. And that probably won't even begin with the usual major leaguers.

"There are owners out there who want to break the union," Jay Bell of the Pittsburgh Pirates said. "They think they can squeeze it and get us to cross. That won't happen."

Owners went ahead and imple-

mented the cap after months of threats and talks broke down. Players went on strike August 12 to protest the proposed cap, and owners retaliated a month later by canceling the remainder of the season and postseason.

Now owners say they are ready to start spring training with replacement players if the strike continues.

"We intend to play baseball," said Oakland A's president Sandy Alderson. "And while we hope that an agreement with the major league players can still be reached, we recognize that we must prepare to play the season with new personnel."

The new cap, if allowed to take effect, sets a \$34.2m limit on teams with transition rules allowing 21 teams to stay above until 1998. Detroit can have the highest payroll at \$51.1m, but must cut \$5.6m.

A revenue sharing system will also see 15 teams give money to 11 with two teams unaffected. The Yankees pay the most in 1995 (\$2.3m) and the Padres receive the most (\$3.8m).

NHL watches with bated breath

BUFFALO (AP) — Now that baseball owners have implemented a salary cap, the NHL is the only major sports league without one.

How long can hockey players avoid one? "We definitely look at what happens in baseball," Buffalo Sabres forward Dave Hannan said Friday. "But it just makes us say, 'Let's not let it get that far.'"

For two sports as different as a black puck and white ball, baseball and hockey have a remarkably similar problem: The owners want some sort of salary cap, and the players vow never to accept one.

Both leagues shut down for part of 1994 because of the labor strife, and both work stoppages also threaten to spoil 1995.

Hockey is fast approaching the point where the entire season would have to be canceled.

When the NBA got a salary cap, the NFL wanted one, too. When football players grew dissatisfied with their deal, they sent the word to their hockey- and baseball-playing brethren:

"I'd tell them to stick to their guns on the cap issue," Philadelphia Eagles defensive end William Fuller said in September. "You give up now and it will be tough to recoup in the future."

Published reports have said that owners would accept a deal without a tax if the players make major concessions on arbitration or free agency. Negotiators will meet again next week in a final rush to get a deal by the new year so games can begin during the first half of January.

Hill leads Cavs to 8th straight win

CLEVELAND (AP) — The Cleveland Cavaliers, relying again on their furious double-teaming defense, won their eighth straight game, beating the New Jersey Nets 80-75 on Friday night behind 18 points and 19 rebounds from Tyrone Hill.

Cleveland has held opponents to 90 or fewer points in its last nine games. The eight-game winning streak is its best since it won a team-record 11 in a row last February and March.

New Jersey played without Derrick Coleman, out with a hand injury, for the third consecutive game. Armon Gilliam led the Nets with 12 points.

Shaqille O'Neal scored 32 points and host Orlando held Milwaukee to two field goals in the first seven minutes of the fourth quarter to break open a close game.

The victory improved the NBA's best record to 20-5, while the Bucks finished a three-game road trip with their fourth consecutive loss.

Nick Anderson had 27 points for the Bucks, which played without Akeem Odoms, sidelined with a sore hamstring. Glenn Robinson led the Bucks with 20 points.

Hawks 97, Pistons 77

Mookie Blaylock had 18 points to lead visiting Atlanta to a rout of the Detroit Pistons, leaving Lenny Wilkens one win shy of Red Auerbach's coaching victories record.

The win was the 937th of the Atlanta coach's career. He can tie the NBA record with a victory Tuesday at Houston.

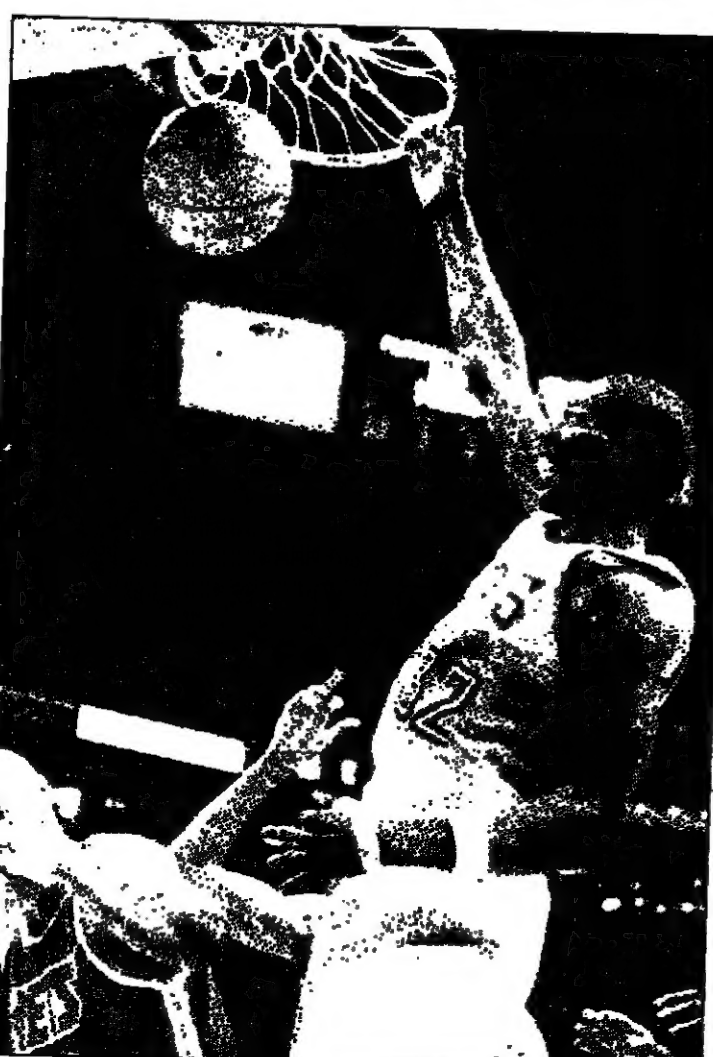
Alan Houston came off the Pistons bench to score a game-high 23, and Hill had 19. Grant Long added 17 for Atlanta.

76ers 85, Celtics 77

Dana Barros had a career-high 34 points as visiting Philadelphia broke a five-game losing streak.

The 76ers misfired throughout the first half but hit their shots down the stretch. The Celtics' last field goal came with 5:33 left, ending a 10-2 run that gave them a 73-70 lead.

Philadelphia outscored the Celtics 15-4 the rest of the way, taking the



TWO OVER EASY — Cavaliers forward Tyrone Hill dunks over Nets' Benoit Benjamin. Hill had 18 points and 19 rebounds. (AP)

lead for good on Barros' 3-point shot with 2:45 left that made the score 77-75.

Boston was led by Doc Brown with 18 points and Dominique Wilkins with 17.

Bulls 116, Pacers 92

Toni Kukoc scored 17 of his 27 points in the second quarter as host Chicago pulled away to snap a three-game losing streak.

The Bulls led by as many as 30 points early in the fourth quarter.

Derrick McKee led Indiana with 17 points, 12 in the first quarter. Reggie Miller had 16 points.

Spurs 98, Rockets 96

Sean Elliott's 15-foot jumper with 2.9 seconds left boosted host San Antonio to its sixth straight win.

Elliott's shot was set up after Vernon Maxwell, who finished with a season-high 27 points, was called for traveling. Houston coach Rudy Tom-

janovich was assessed a technical foul for disrupting the call, but Vince Del Negro missed the technical before Elliott's game-winning shot.

Sams 126, Nuggets 110

Danny Manning scored 7 points in 52 seconds of the fourth quarter, giving host Phoenix an insurmountable 21-point lead with 4:18 remaining.

FRIDAY'S RESULTS: Philadelphia 85, Boston 77; Cleveland 80, New Jersey 75; Orlando 126, Milwaukee 91; Miami 116, Charlotte 93; Atlanta 97, Detroit 77; Chicago 116, Indiana 92; San Antonio 98, Houston 96; Phoenix 126, Denver 110; Portland 118, Dallas 91; Washington 105, LA Clippers 102; LA Lakers 100, Sacramento 89.

THURSDAY'S RESULTS: Cleveland 95, New York 90; Charlotte 103, Philadelphia 91; Utah 103, Atlanta 94; Houston 114, Phoenix 106; Seattle 103, Dallas 91; Golden State 107, Washington 87; Sacramento 109, Milwaukee 89.

EASTERN CONFERENCE

| Atlantic Division | W | L | Pct. | GB |
|-------------------|----|----|------|-----|
| Orlando | 20 | 5 | .800 | - |
| New York | 12 | 11 | .522 | 7 |
| New Jersey | 12 | 10 | .545 | 9.5 |
| Boston | 10 | 15 | .400 | 10 |
| Philadelphia | 9 | 16 | .360 | 11 |
| Miami | 8 | 15 | .346 | 11 |
| Washington | 7 | 16 | .304 | 12 |

| Central Division | W | L | Pct. | GB |
|------------------|----|----|------|-----|
| Cleveland | 17 | 8 | .682 | - |
| Indiana | 15 | 8 | .652 | 1 |
| Chicago | 14 | 11 | .560 | 3 |
| Utah | 12 | 12 | .500 | 4.5 |
| Atlanta | 11 | 15 | .423 | 6.5 |
| Detroit | 9 | 14 | .391 | 7 |
| Milwaukee | 7 | 17 | .288 | 8.5 |

WESTERN CONFERENCE

| Midwest Division | W | L | Pct. | GB |
|------------------|----|----|------|-----|
| Utah | 18 | 9 | .667 | - |
| Houston | 14 | 9 | .609 | 2.5 |
| San Antonio | 13 | 9 | .591 | 3 |
| Dallas | 12 | 10 | .545 | 4 |
| Denver | 12 | 11 | .522 | 4.5 |
| Minnesota | 5 | 19 | .208 | 12 |

| Pacific Division | W | L | Pct. | GB |
|------------------|----|----|------|-----|
| Phoenix | 19 | 6 | .760 | - |
| Seattle | 18 | 8 | .692 | 1 |
| LA Lakers | 15 | 9 | .619 | 2 |
| Portland | 12 | 10 | .545 | 3 |
| Sacramento | 12 | 10 | .545 | 3 |
| Golden State | 9 | 15 | .375 | 6.5 |
| LA Clippers | 3 | 22 | .120 | 16 |

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Shaikovitz wins for charity

STEVE WEIL

CHUCK Shaikovitz won the A Division individual stableford competition at the Charity Day event at the Caesarea Golf Club on Friday. His par 36 points was one better than Lulu Givertzman's efforts.

In the B Division, Eric Isaacs won with 40 points, two better than Harold Stensen. Mike Mannor led the C Division with a six-under-par 42. Yair Keren was second with 40.

Maradona signs as Racing coach

BUENOS AIRES (AP) — Diego Maradona signed up as coach of Racing Club on Friday, his second coaching stint since a failed drug test got him banned from the playing field.

After signing a one-year contract reportedly worth \$500,000, Maradona vowed to break the 28-year spell in which Racing Club

has failed to win the first division championship.

Considered a sleeping giant of Argentine soccer, the success-starved club has fired 50 coaches in the

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hefetz: No proof yet of Haifa serial killer
Police Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz said Friday there is no evidence that a serial killer is operating in Haifa, but that the possibility is being investigated. Hefetz was responding to press questions about the murders in Haifa of two homosexuals who were acquaintances.

Bill to force immediate searches rejected
The ministerial committee on legislation on Friday rejected a bill by MK Yosef Ba-Gad that would require the IDF or police to immediately begin searching for anyone reported missing. Ba-Gad explained the bill by noting the search for Sgt. Nahshon Wachsmann could not begin until the statutory 48 hours had passed since he was reported missing.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Police Minister Moshe Shabab objected, saying the security forces must be left to make operational decisions based on the circumstances of each case.

Man killed, wife hurt by gas poisoning

An elderly Haifa man was killed and his wife injured after they apparently inhaled poisonous gases emitted by a heater. Heinrich Roger, 81, and his wife, Lotte, 73, were found Friday morning when their cleaning woman, who could not get into the apartment, called neighbors to help. Their knocking woke Lotte, who had been overcome and had fainted, and she managed to open the door.

The neighbors found Heinrich Roger dead. His body was sent for autopsy to the Institute for Forensic Medicine at Abu Kabir. Lotte Roger was admitted to Bnai Zion Hospital.

Bill to lift pre-election TV ban

The ministerial committee for legislation decided Friday to support a bill submitted by Labor MK Avraham Burg, which would cancel the ban on Knesset candidates appearing on television or radio for 30 days before national elections.

Rabin, Peres set up fund with Nobel money

The Nobel Peace Prize cash award won by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres will be used to establish a fund for promoting peace, which will award an annual cash prize to the person who does the most to promote peace each year, Peres said last week.

Dayan, Edri want long school day

Labor MKs Eli Dayan and Rafi Edri are proposing a bill that would institute a long school day, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., in development towns and distressed neighborhoods starting with the next school year. The plan would be extended to the rest of the country in 1996. The two met with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin last week, who promised to study the matter.

78,000 immigrants expected

A TOTAL of 75,221 new immigrants have arrived here since the beginning of the year, 66,000 of them from the CIS, according to Uri Gordon, head of the Jewish Agency's immigration and absorption department. Gordon said last night he expects the number of immigrants for 1994 to reach 78,000, including those who arrived as tourists and changed their status.

He said the economic reality of new immigrants demands the Knesset pass the absorption basket bill, which would link the benefits with inflation. The law would contribute greatly to the absorption of new immigrants, he added. (Itim)

Regina Medzini dies at 96

REGINA Medzini, probably the last survivor of the group of American Zionists who immigrated here in 1921 under the leadership of Golda Meir, died recently in Jerusalem at 96.

Born in Austria, Medzini moved with her family to Milwaukee when she was a child. She met the then Golda Meir in first grade, becoming life-long friends. Medzini worked in the political department of the Jewish Agency under Haim Arlosor-

off and Moshe Sharett, and later worked in the Foreign Ministry.

Medzini also served as secretary of the Israeli delegation to the United Nations under Abba Eban. She retired in 1968 after four and a half decades of service.

In 1924 she married Moshe Medzini, a member of the editorial board of *Ha'aretz* from 1922 to 1959. Medzini is survived by two children, seven grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Threat of court action wins Zucker a visit with Vanunu

DAN IZENBERG

THE General Security Service has agreed to allow Law Committee Chairman Dedi Zucker to visit convicted spy Mordechai Vanunu, after the MK threatened to petition the High Court of Justice, Zucker said yesterday.

After a three-month correspondence capped by Zucker's threat, the head of the GSS agreed to allow Zucker, accompanied by Police Minister Moshe Shabab, to see Vanunu.

Vanunu, 40, is being held in solitary confinement at Ashkelon Prison. Only a few members of his family have been allowed to see him since he was sentenced to 18 years in prison for revealing

details about Israel's nuclear capability.

Vanunu was employed for many years as a technician at the Dimona nuclear power plant. Afterwards, he left Israel and provided the *Sunday Times* of London with photos and information about the plant and its production.

The story was published in the *Times* on October 5, 1986. A few days later, Vanunu was abducted to Israel. In December 1988, the Jerusalem District Court convicted him of treason and espionage.

Vanunu has been held virtually incommunicado ever since he was brought back to Israel. In 1993, he petitioned the High Court of Justice against the conditions of his incarceration. The court rejected them.

Three months ago, Zucker asked the acting head of the GSS to allow him to visit Vanunu so he could get a first-hand look at his prison conditions. The request was refused, he said.

Zucker then made his request in writing, saying that, "Israel cannot allow itself to hold in its

territory a prisoner whom no one can see. The fact that only a handful of relatives can visit him, but elected officials are barred from doing so, is a defect which contradicts the fundamental principles of a free country."

The GSS replied that it would allow members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee's subcommittee on the secret services to visit Vanunu, said Zucker, who insisted that either he or the head of the Knesset Interior Committee be allowed to visit the prisoner, since the issue was not his crimes but the conditions of his imprisonment.



Pupils at the Ge'ulim-Alef School in Jerusalem's Baka neighborhood on Friday put up art work expressing JNF themes, such as land reclamation, and raised NIS 400 to mark the 93rd birthday of the Jewish National Fund. (Joe Malcolm)

Sarid urges developing Ashkelon region

LIAT COLLINS

ENVIRONMENT Minister Yossi Sarid said last week the Kiryat Gat-Kiryat Malachi-Ashkelon area should be further developed to combat the housing shortage in a country fast running out of open land.

Sarid was speaking Thursday at the founding meeting of the Public Council for the Protection of Open Landscape and Land Resources, an offshoot of the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel.

The plan to develop the southern coastal area and Ashkelon

triangle would meet the need for more housing close to the central region, he said.

SPNI chairman Yoav Sagi and other speakers also called for building taller apartment blocks in existing cities (rather than building new towns of "villas and cottages"), developing the south of the country, and promoting public transport, including trains.

Both Likud MK Uzi Landau and Labor MK Avraham Burg spoke against the current plans for the Trans-Israel Highway.

Anti-smoking group urges boycott of El Al

JUDY SIEGEL

THE Israel Society for the Prevention of Smoking (ISPS) hailed Delta Airlines last week for becoming the first carrier that lands here to ban smoking on all flights, and urged passengers to avoid El Al until it adopts a similar policy.

At present, local law bars smoking on Israeli flights that take up to two hours: to Eilat, Athens, Cairo, and Istanbul. El Al said it has no plans to adopt Delta's policy voluntarily, but would certainly comply if the Transport Ministry were to prohibit smoking on all flights to and from Israel.

Delta has placed large advertisements in US papers announcing its new policy, which goes into effect January 1.

El Al spokesman Nahman Kleiman said that of the 450 seats on a Boeing 747, only around 20 at the back of the plane form the smoking section, "although we will add smoking seats if there is demand."

Although there is no physical divider preventing smoke from that section from spreading to the nonsmoking section, he claimed that, "Our filtration and air-exchange systems minimize the smoke's impact on other passengers."

Because El Al is a state company, Kleiman said, it cannot unilaterally ban all smoking on its flights without approval of the Transport Ministry.

TWA spokesman Ted Silverman said his airline has few smoking seats because of little demand around the world, but added that Israeli passengers "are much more likely to want to smoke than Americans, because Israelis in general are heavy smokers."

ISPS director Amos Hausner maintained that Congressional hearings found that the so-called "filtration and air exchange systems" in all aircraft are useless and do not rid the air of the toxins from cigarette smoke.

He said he has been approached by "numerous El Al stewards" who claim their health is being affected by smoking passengers. He added that passengers in wheelchairs had complained that El Al had put them in the smoking section, while other nonsmokers complained that when the no-smoking section fills up, nonsmokers are sent to sit in the smoking section.

Two weeks ago, a Florida court agreed to accept a class-action suit by airline stewards against their employers for endangering their health on the job.

Shabbat battle in Jerusalem continues

BILL HUTMAN

HAREDIM threw stones at cars and chanted "Shabbos, Shabbos" over the weekend for the fifth straight Shabbat, demanding the closure of Jerusalem streets running through their neighborhoods.

At least two vehicles were damaged and six haredim detained during the protests, a police spokesman said.

The unrest centered on Rehov Bar-Ilan, the street Jerusalem haredim have been pushing the hardest to have closed.

But late Friday night, the protests spread to nearby Rehov Shimon Hatzadik. Over 1,000 haredim rioted there, threw stones at passing cars, and had to be forced onto the sidewalks by police.

Senior police officers are to meet this week with haredi leaders, in an effort to cool tensions.

Itim adds: In Bnei Brak Friday night, dozens of haredim gathered on Rehov Hazon Ish, on the Bnei Brak-Ramat Gan border, and threw stones at passing cars, apparently in protest against a new taxi stand on the street. Police arrived and halted the disturbances.

Knesset panel: Career soldiers should pay health tax

EVELYN GORDON

MEMBERS of the standing army should pay the new national health tax just like ordinary citizens do, the Knesset Finance Committee demanded on Friday.

Until now, the army has paid health fund dues for all its permanent staff as part of the collective agreement. However, said committee chairman Gedaiya Gal (Labor), since under the new National Health Law middle- and upper-income Israelis will be paying higher health insurance fees, it seems only fair that members of the standing army should pay their share as well.

The MKs asked the army to report back to them by January 21 as to whether it would be willing to consider such a change. The committee, however, has no authority to force such a move.

Gal also said the committee would hold a discussion on army salaries sometime in the next three months.

He insisted the committee is not concerned with the size of army salaries, which it believes must be high enough to attract talented people. However, he said, the committee is concerned with the fact that, according to the Treasury, salaries are taking up an increasingly larger slice of the overall defense budget. Next year, some 16% of the NIS 25 billion budget is earmarked for salaries, according to one MK.

Gal said the solution to this problem is not to cut salaries, but to reduce manpower.

The committee approved the 1995 defense budget on Friday, and praised the fact that for the first time, the budget included a detailed breakdown on how much money is going to each item.

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Beethoven: Symphony no. 5

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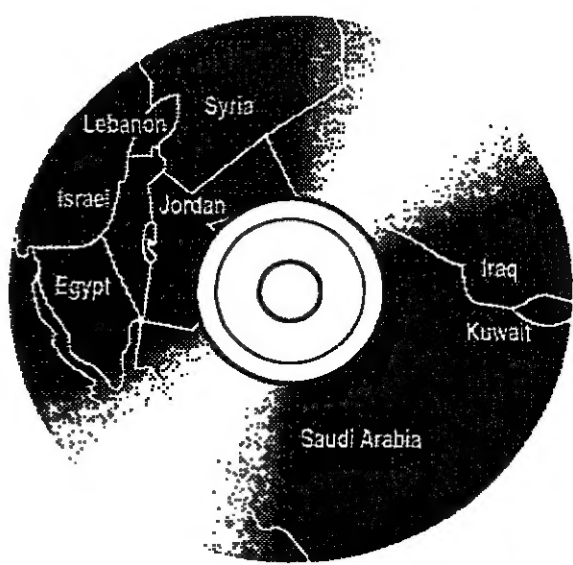
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Thu. 29.12.94, 8:30 p.m. Haifa Aud. Series B-Haifa

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Programme:
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Haydn: Symphony no. 9
Mozart: Violin concerto no. 5, K. 219
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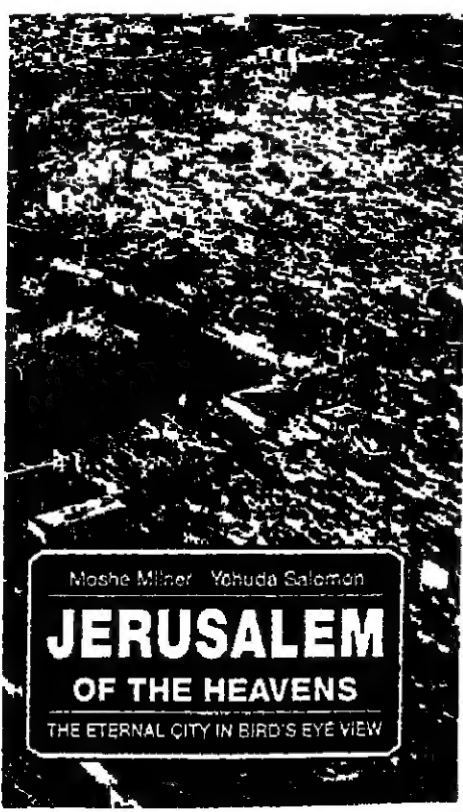
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